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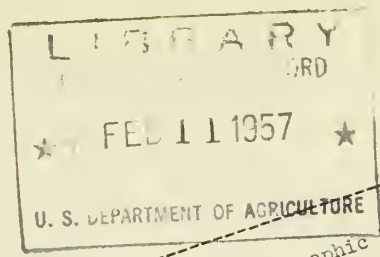
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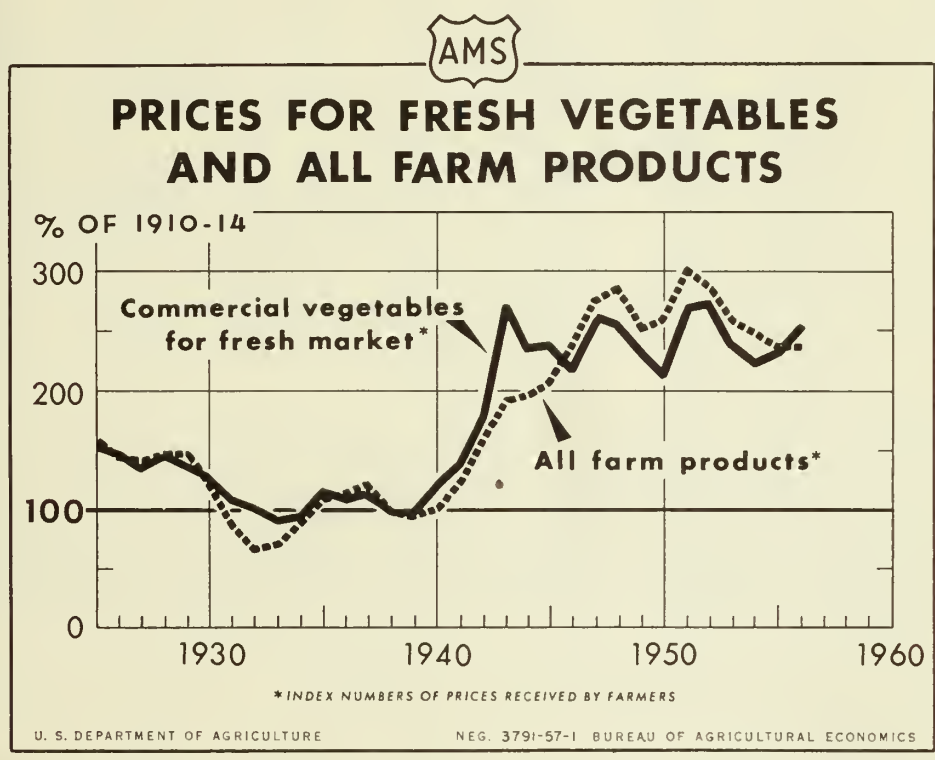
# The VEGETABLE SITUATION

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In this issue:  
Trends in the Geographic Pattern  
of Late Crop Potatoe Production



From 1925 to the beginning of World War II, prices received by farmers for fresh market vegetables tended to rise and fall about in line with prices received for all farm products. During the war years prices received for vegetables were high, then, in most of the

postwar period were low relative to prices of all farm products. In the last two years, however, vegetables have improved their position, and in 1956 the level of vegetable prices was above that of all farm products.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

Table 1.- Vegetables for fresh market: Commercial acreage, yield per acre, and production of principal crops, average 1949-55, annual 1956 and indicated 1957

Crop and seasonal group	Acreage			Yield per acre			Production		
	Average	1956	Indi-	Average	1956	Indi-	Average	1956	Indi-
	1949-55		cated	1949-55		cated	1949-55		cated
			1957			1957			1957
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	1,000 cwt.	1,000 cwt.	1,000 cwt.
VEGETABLES									
Winter									
Artichokes	7,900	9,400	9,400	40	34	40	314	320	396
Beans, lima	710	600	650	28	30	26	20	18	17
Beans, snap	28,040	21,600	22,000	32	33	33	883	713	726
Beets	4,170	3,300	2,000	74	75	75	298	248	150
Broccoli	7,350	3,300	3,300	43	52	48	315	173	158
Brussels sprouts	420	200	600	43	50	45	18	10	27
Cabbage 1/	42,240	41,300	31,800	158	169	168	6,695	6,995	5,351
Carrots	40,110	35,300	29,100	124	143	140	4,982	5,040	4,082
Cauliflower	4,140	6,930	8,120	97	101	96	403	700	783
Celery	9,740	10,460	10,390	429	454	438	4,178	4,746	4,548
Corn, sweet	5,230	6,600	11,700	69	75	75	378	495	878
Cucumbers	1,860	1,500	2,500	73	62	65	139	93	162
Egg plant	730	650	700	138	135	135	101	88	94
Escarole	4,170	4,800	5,500	126	125	130	531	600	715
Kale	2,840	2,600	2,600	73	70	72	208	182	187
Lettuce	61,210	78,300	68,200	137	130	131	8,321	10,190	8,942
Peas, green	1,880	300	---	16	20	---	31	6	---
Peppers, green	3,810	4,600	5,600	106	115	110	399	529	616
Shallots	3,530	3,900	3,700	26	30	25	94	117	92
Spinach	20,490	13,950	13,250	39	51	48	767	706	637
Tomatoes	14,710	18,500	24,200	112	115	125	1,673	2,128	3,025
Total	265,280	268,090	255,210	---	---	---	30,748	34,097	31,563
Spring									
Asparagus 1/	136,040	153,470	2/156,170	24	23	---	3,214	3,518	---
Cabbage 1/	20,440	17,300	2/15,800	121	133	---	2,468	2,298	---
Onions	35,830	50,000	32,000	61	80	---	1,957	4,000	---
Early	15,680	9,750	2/11,700	132	155	---	2,048	1,509	---
Late									
Total	51,510	59,750	43,700	---	---	---	4,005	5,509	---
Shallots	2,310	2,600	2,700	27	30	---	63	78	---
Watermelons	84,460	99,700	2/108,000	84	98	---	7,122	9,750	---
Late									
Total:									
Spring 3/	294,760	332,820	326,370	---	---	---	16,872	21,153	---
Winter and spring 3/	560,040	600,910	581,580	---	---	---	47,620	55,250	---

1/ Includes processing. 2/ Prospective. 3/ Includes asparagus used for processing and cabbage used for sauerkraut.

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T H E V E G E T A B L E S I T U A T I O N  
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Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, January 29, 1957

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### SUMMARY

Production of 20 commercial vegetables grown for fresh market sale is expected to be about 7 percent smaller this winter than last, but slightly larger than the 1949-55 average. Most of the expected reduction results from smaller acreage in Texas, where plantings were restricted by drought and a shortage of water for irrigation. Among the more important winter vegetables, biggest decreases in production from 1956 are in prospect for cabbage and carrots, with more moderate decreases in lettuce, celery and spinach. On the other hand, indicated winter production of sweet corn and tomatoes is up sharply with more moderate increases in escarole, green peppers and cauliflower.

Consumer demand is expected to continue strong; and with smaller supplies in prospect, prices received by growers of winter season vegetables are likely to average at least moderately higher than a year earlier.

Supplies of processed vegetables available for distribution during the remainder of the current marketing season are substantially larger than either a year earlier or the 1949-55 average. Corn, tomatoes and tomato juice appear to be in heaviest supply, among major canned items, but supplies of most other items are also larger than a year earlier and above average. January 1 stocks of frozen vegetables were more than a third larger than a year ago. Despite reasonable retail prices and heavy sales promotions which are expected to result in a good rate of movement of processed items, stocks of both canned and frozen vegetables are expected to be substantially larger at the end of the current marketing season than in 1956. To avoid another serious cost-price squeeze, packers should seek a substantially smaller acreage for processing in 1957.



There has been a fairly orderly movement of potatoes from the large fall crop into normal marketing channels. In addition, through January 26, about 7.3 million hundredweight, 1.1 million hundredweight more than a year earlier, had been moved under the potato diversion program. Although market conditions have been better than a year earlier, and have improved some in recent weeks, prices are well below average.

Total stocks of fall potatoes in the 26 fall states on January 1 were 101 million hundredweight compared to about 87 million hundredweight on January 1, 1956. Production of winter-season potatoes in Florida and California, although small compared with consumption in that period, also promises to be much larger than a year earlier, and acreage for early spring harvest is up moderately. With above average stocks on January 1 and relatively large winter production in prospect a reasonable price level to growers will depend on an orderly marketing of good quality table-stock, and full utilization of the diversion program.

Supplies of sweetpotatoes available into mid-1957 are substantially smaller than last year. Lighter marketing during the first half of the current season has held prices to growers well above the low levels of a year earlier. Prices are expected to advance into the spring and to continue well above those of 1956. But demand for sweetpotatoes has declined. Prices in September-December were below the 1949-54 average, despite the small 1956 crop. Present requirements for this crop appear to warrant little or no production increase this year.

Overall supplies of dry edible beans are a little smaller than a year earlier, but appear fully ample to satisfy anticipated requirement. Pintos, pink beans and blackeyes are in substantially smaller supply, and prices are considerably higher than a year earlier. But pea and red kidney beans are in larger supply than a year earlier, and prices are lower. Prices of all classes combined are expected to average about the same this season as last. The National support rate is \$6.31 per hundredweight, substantially the same as a year earlier.

Supplies of dry field peas are almost double the small supplies of last season, about a fifth above the 1945-54 average and considerably in excess of domestic and normal export requirements. However, export demand has been unusually strong because of severe crop damage in Western Europe. This big export demand has lightened the pressure of heavy supplies and held prices at reasonable levels. To avoid the risk of large supplies and depressed prices in the season ahead, growers would do well to cut acreage substantially in 1957.

## COMMERCIAL VEGETABLES FOR FRESH MARKET

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Production Estimates for Vegetables  
Now in Hundredweight

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In the 1956 annual summary of Acreage, Production and Value released by the Crop Reporting Board on December 17, as well as in all future releases, yield and production estimates for fresh market vegetables are reported in hundredweight. Reasons given for changing from the various units formerly used to a uniform weight basis include: (1) absence of uniformity in containers used for some vegetables such as carrots and tomatoes, making it impossible to select a unit readily understood in all producing sections; (2) changes in packing practices, some of which have resulted in variations in weight of individual containers and affected the accuracy of data on a crate or bushel; (3) evidence that measurement of production in terms of weight is becoming more general.

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Smaller Production, Higher  
Prices Likely for  
Winter of 1957

Indications are that production of vegetables for fresh market sale will be somewhat smaller this winter than last. Early January reports place prospective production for the winter season at 31.6 million hundredweight, 7 percent less than last winter, but slightly above the 1949-55 average. Biggest decreases in actual tonnage are indicated for cabbage, carrots and lettuce where acreage in Texas was cut back drastically because of drought and a shortage of water for irrigation. Smaller tonnages are also in prospect for lima beans, beets, broccoli, celery, shallots and spinach. On the other hand, increased production over a year earlier is expected for a number of items. Among major vegetables cauliflower, sweet corn, escarole, green peppers and tomatoes are likely to be in appreciably larger supply this winter. Larger supplies are also in prospect for several less important items including artichokes, Brussels sprouts, cucumbers, eggplant and kale. Dry onions from the late summer crop will also be in moderately larger supply this winter.

Demand for winter vegetables is expected to continue strong. With smaller supplies anticipated this winter than last, prices received by growers probably will average at least moderately higher than in the first quarter of 1956. Supplies of dry onions are moderately larger than a year earlier; however, movement has been good and prices have strengthened in recent weeks. Prices are expected to show further improvement, since smaller supplies of early spring onions are in prospect.



## USDA Guides For Spring, Summer and Fall Vegetables

Spring: The Department acreage-marketing guide suggests for 18 spring vegetables a 1957 planted acreage 2 percent less than in 1956. Smaller acreages than a year earlier were recommended for broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, onions and shallots. Somewhat larger acreages were suggested for snap beans, sweet corn, green peppers and tomatoes. Little or no change in acreage was recommended for lima beans, beets, carrots, cucumbers, eggplant, lettuce, green peas and spinach. Assuming normal abandonment and average yields by states, aggregate production on the suggested acreage would be moderately smaller this spring than last.

The guide recommends a moderate cut in spring acreage of both cantaloups and watermelons. With normal abandonment and average yields, production of cantaloups would be about the same as in 1956, but tonnage of watermelons would be substantially smaller.

Summer: For 16 summer vegetables for fresh market, excluding melons, the guide recommends an aggregate planted acreage about 3 percent smaller than last summer. Substantial acreage cuts were suggested for cauliflower, celery, lettuce, onions and spinach, and slight to moderate cuts for beets, cabbage, carrots, cucumbers and tomatoes. No change in acreage was recommended for lima beans, snap beans, eggplant, peas or green peppers, and a moderate increase was suggested for sweet corn. With normal abandonment and yields near the average of recent years, production on the recommended acreage would be down moderately to substantially from that of a year earlier.

No change is suggested in acreage of cantaloups for summer harvest, but average yields would result in slightly more production than last summer. The guide suggests a slight cut in watermelon acreage, with the objective of a slightly larger tonnage.

Fall: The guide for fall vegetables recommends a planted acreage about 5 percent smaller than the 1956 acreage. Substantially smaller fall acreages were suggested for broccoli, cauliflower, celery and tomatoes, moderately smaller acreages for carrots, cucumbers and sweet corn, and slightly fewer acres of lettuce and spinach. Little or no change was recommended for fall plantings of snap beans, cabbage and green peas. The only significant acreage increases recommended were 20 percent for eggplant and 10 percent for green peppers. Normal abandonment and yields near the average of recent years from the suggested acreage would result in a moderately smaller tonnage of vegetables in the fall of 1957 than in 1956.

## Prospects For Leading Crops

### Snap Beans

There has been in the postwar period a rather sharp decline in acreage and production of snap beans for winter-season harvest. Florida acreage of snap beans for harvest this winter is only slightly larger than in the winter



of 1956 and substantially below the 1949-55 average. Indicated yields are the same as a year ago, with prospective production only 2 percent larger than last winter and 18 percent below the 1949-55 average. Cold weather and frost during the growing season resulted in retarded development and damage to the crop. Shipments through mid-January have been very light, and prices have been relatively high.

Both acreage and production of snap bean crops in early- mid- and late spring of 1956 were each substantially smaller than either a year earlier or the 1950-54 average. Because of light supplies, prices in each of the three periods were well above both the previous year and average. It appears that more snap beans could have been moved readily last spring at price levels which permit reasonable returns to farmers. Thus, the Department of Agriculture acreage guide suggests for each of the sub-seasonal groups--early- mid- and late spring--an acreage 5 percent larger than in 1956. Such an acreage with yields near the 1950-54 average would result in substantially larger supplies in early spring than a year ago, and at least moderately larger supplies in mid- and late spring. Since supplies of canned and frozen beans are relatively large, farmers will do well to stay within the recommended guides.

Supplies of snap beans for fresh market sale in the summer of 1956 reflected the slow downward trend in acreage and production in the postwar period. Production was moderately smaller than in 1955 but substantially smaller than in the early postwar period. Prices for the summer averaged well above the low levels of 1955 but were about in line with the 1950-54 average. The guide for 1957 recommends a planted acreage equal to that in 1956. Assuming normal abandonment and 1949-54 average yields, production would be slightly less than last year and about 7 percent below the 1950-54 average.

As in other seasons, production of snap beans for fall harvest has declined in recent years. Harvested acreage of early fall beans was up slightly in 1956, but production was about the same as in 1955. Prices averaged about the same as in 1956 and moderately above the 1950-54 average. Assuming a normal growing season for processing crops, competition from canned and frozen beans is likely to continue strong. The guide recommends that the same acreage be planted to early fall beans as in 1956, with the objective of 8 percent less production. Acreage and production of late fall beans in 1956 were also down from a year earlier and prices, though well above the low level of 1955, were considerably below the 1950-54 average. The 1957 summer guide suggests a planted acreage equal to that of 1956, with the objective of a moderately smaller tonnage.

### Cabbage

Prices of cabbage during the fall were at very low levels reflecting the heavy fall production. The Department of Agriculture operated a Section 32 purchase program to help producers dispose of the burdensome supplies.

From late October to mid-December when Government buying was terminated, almost 100,000 hundredweight were purchased under the program. In recent weeks total shipments of cabbage have continued relatively light, but prices of both old and new stock are below year earlier levels. With substantially smaller supplies of new crop cabbage in prospect than in 1956, prices of this item during the next 2 months should average at least as high as a year earlier.

Acreage and indicated production of cabbage for winter season harvest are down almost a fourth from last year. Most of the cuts in acreage and prospective production are the result of much smaller plantings in the Lower Valley of Texas, where irrigation water is critically short. Production in Texas promises to be less than half that of 1956, and lighter tonnages are also in prospect for Florida and California. Supplies of cabbage this winter compared with last will be down only about half as much as production, because of substantially larger stocks of old crop cabbage. January 1 stocks of Danish cabbage in New York amounted to 895,000 hundredweight compared with 154,000 in 1956 and the 1945-54 average of 561,000.

Early reports indicate a prospective acreage of cabbage for early spring harvest about 9 percent less than in 1956. With normal abandonment and 1952-56 average yield, production on the indicated acreage would be substantially below both 1956 and the 1950-54 average. If production is about in line with the average of recent years, prices of the early spring crop are expected to be well above the low levels of a year earlier and probably above the 5-year average. No information is available on the probable acreage of cabbage for late spring harvest. Yields of late spring cabbage were unusually high last year, and although acreage was below average, production was about in line with the 1950-54 average. There was less than the usual overlap of marketings from the early summer crop, and prices of late spring cabbage were substantially above the recent 5-year average. Last fall the Department recommended a 1957 planted acreage for late spring harvest equal to that of 1956, with the objective of a moderately smaller tonnage.

Production of cabbage for early summer harvest in 1956 was a little larger than in 1955 but slightly smaller than the 1950-54 average. Prices for the 1956 season were near those of the previous year but substantially below the recent 5-year average, partly as a result of overlap with marketing from the late summer crop. Purchases by kraut packers, however, were probably larger than they will be in 1957, which helped to sustain prices. The guide recommends a planted acreage for early summer harvest equal to that of 1956, with the objective of 8 percent less production. In 1956 production of late summer cabbage, which is more than twice as large as early summer production, was slightly less than in 1955 and substantially below the 1950-54 average. Prices were below both those of a year earlier and average, largely because of an overlap of marketings from the early summer crop. The 1957 guide is a planted acreage 5 percent less than in 1956, with the objective of a slightly larger production.



The early fall crop of cabbage is by far the most important of the seasonal crops, typically amounting to about half the annual tonnage. Early fall production in 1956 was very heavy due largely to yields more than a fifth above average. Prices were low throughout the season, and a Section 32 purchase program was operated in New York and Wisconsin, and to a limited extent in Colorado and Massachusetts. Partly as a result of the low prices, open market purchases of cabbage for kraut were considerably heavier than in 1955. The guide suggests an acreage for 1957 equal to that of 1956, with the objective of a 15 percent smaller tonnage than last year and 7 percent less than the 1950-54 average. The recommended acreage for late fall harvest is also equal to 1956, with an objective of 20 percent less tonnage.

### Carrots

Prospective output of carrots for winter-season harvest, produced principally in Texas and California, is almost a fifth smaller than either last winter or the 1949-55 average. The sharp cut in planted acreage and the consequent cut in production appears to be largely due to the drought in Texas. Prices last winter averaged \$2.24 per hundredweight, 10 percent less than a year earlier and about a fourth below the 1949-54 average. Although shipments in recent weeks have been substantially smaller than a year earlier, demand has been dull, and prices have averaged below the corresponding weeks of last year.

Carrots produced for spring harvest are being subjected to increasing competition from the Texas and California winter crops and the California early summer crop. Acreage of spring carrots in Arizona was cut sharply in 1956; production was slightly below 1955 and a third below the 1950-54 average. Although prices were well above average, the comparison is not very meaningful because prices in earlier years were heavily weighted by quotations on bunched carrots. The 1957 guide is for a planted acreage equal to 1956, with the objective of 19 percent more tonnage than 1956, but 21 percent less than in the 1950-54 period.

Production of carrots in both the early and late summer of 1956 was larger than in the preceding summer and well above the 1950-54 average. Prices received by farmers for both the early and late summer crops were below either the previous year or average. The 1957 guide suggests a 10 percent smaller acreage than in 1956 for the early summer crop and a 5 percent smaller acreage for late summer, with the objective of a substantially smaller tonnage in each period.

Supplies of fall carrots were heavy in 1956, and relatively low prices prevailed. The guide suggests for 1957 a 5 percent cut in both the early and late fall acreages. Such acreages, with normal abandonment and yields near the average of recent years, would result in a substantially smaller tonnage for early fall harvest and a moderately smaller output in late fall.

## Celery

Celery production continued its postwar expansion, with 1956 production up moderately from a year earlier and substantially above the 1949-54 average. The increased production in 1956 over 1955 was due to a larger acreage, since average yields were down slightly. The larger supplies of celery in 1956 and some serious overlaps in shipment from various areas resulted in prices substantially below those of either a year earlier or average. These low prices resulted in economic abandonment of a small tonnage of spring celery in Florida, and a considerable tonnage of both the early summer and late fall crops in California.

Reports in early January indicate a slightly smaller acreage of celery for 1957 winter-season harvest than last year and a moderately smaller production. The moderate increase in prospective production in Florida is more than offset by a substantial decline in California. Shipments during December-early January were somewhat lighter and prices averaged substantially higher than a year earlier. On December 15, prices received by growers averaged \$2.70 per 60 pound crate compared with only \$1.90 in mid-December 1955. With supplies expected to continue under last year's record level, prices to growers this winter are likely to remain above the low levels of a year earlier.

The acreage-marketing guide for 1957 recommends 5 percent less planted acreage of celery for spring harvest in Florida, and an acreage equal to 1956 in California; for early summer harvest, 20 percent fewer acres in California than in 1956, and the same acreage in other States; for late summer, the same acreage as in 1956; for early fall 5 percent less acreage, and for late fall 10 percent less. Normal abandonment and yields near the average of recent years on the suggested acreage would result in about the same production of spring celery as in 1956, but substantially less summer and fall tonnage.

## Lettuce

Early indications are that production of winter-season lettuce will be about 12 percent under last year's record crop, but still 7 percent above the 1949-55 average. Although prospective production is down from a year earlier in each winter state, most of the reduction results from a sharp cut in Texas acreage. Low prices received for 1956 winter production probably had some influence on acreage, but most of the cut in Texas was caused by drought conditions and a shortage of water for irrigation. Acreage in California, which in recent years has produced about 60 percent of winter tonnage, continued to expand. During December and early January, shipments of lettuce have been lighter and prices substantially higher than in corresponding weeks of 1956. With continued smaller supplies in prospect than last winter prices during the next 6 to 8 weeks are expected to remain above those of a year earlier.

No information is available on prospective acreage of lettuce for spring harvest. Production of early spring lettuce in 1956 was 17 percent above that of 1955 and about 11 percent above the 1949-54 average. The big increase over 1955 was largely the result of a very sharp increase in Arizona



acreage. The crop in California was delayed, permitting a longer than normal marketing season for Arizona production. Prices were near average and well above where they might have been with a more normal season in California. The guide suggests planted acreages in Arizona 25 percent smaller than 1956, 20 percent larger in California, and the same in all other States. The objective is 9 percent less tonnage. Late spring production in 1956 was moderately above average and prices substantially below average. The 1957 guide recommends a late spring acreage equal to 1956, with the objective of a little less tonnage.

Apparently as a result of high prices received in the 1955 season, all summer States except Maine increased lettuce acreage in 1956. The result was record production and very low prices. The guide for 1957 recommends a 15 percent reduction in planted acreage in California and Colorado, and the same acreage in all other States. The objective is a moderately smaller tonnage.

The 1956 early fall crop of lettuce was below both a year earlier and average, while the late fall crop was larger than in 1956 or average. Prices for both crops were materially above the previous year or the 1949-54 average. The 1957 guide suggests the same acreage as in 1956 and moderately greater production for early fall harvest, and a cut of about 10 percent in acreage and production for late fall lettuce.

#### Tomatoes

Indicated production of tomatoes in South Florida this winter is record large, 42 percent more than last winter and about 80 percent above the 1949-55 average. The larger prospective production compared with 1956 is the result of a sharp increase in acreage and substantially higher yields. Low temperatures have slowed development, but the crop apparently suffered no serious damage. During the first half of January shipments of tomatoes have increased somewhat, and prices have declined. Imports from Mexico and Cuba have been and are expected to continue heavier than in the winter of 1956. With larger supplies indicated, prices of winter-season tomatoes are likely to average substantially below the high levels of a year earlier.

No reports are yet available on acreage of tomatoes in early spring States or later areas. The 1956 early spring production was below 1955 but above average. Prices were very low in Florida, the most important producer, and some economic abandonment occurred there. Prices in Texas and California were very high, however, because of little overlap from the Florida crop and delayed harvest of the small late spring crop. The guide recommends a planted acreage for early spring harvest 5 percent less than in 1956 in Florida and the same acreage as in 1956 in all other States. Normal abandonment and 1954-56 average yields on the suggested acreage would result in a production 11 percent less than in 1956, but 6 percent above the 1950-54 average. In view of the large winter crop in Florida and anticipated smaller requirements for processing, it appears particularly important that growers keep acreage within the guide. The Department of Agriculture recommends 15 percent more acres of tomatoes for late spring harvest, with a production objective moderately larger than 1956 but substantially below average.

Production of early summer tomatoes was a record high in 1956. However, delayed harvests in the East and Midwest enabled California, the most important producing State, to extend its marketing season. Season average prices were moderate in most areas. The 1957 guide suggests a 20 percent cut in acreage in California, no change in other States, and a production 8 percent below 1956 but about in line with the 1950-54 average. The guide calls for the same acreage of tomatoes for late summer harvest as last year, with the objective of 5 percent more production.

The guide for the fall crop is 15 percent less acreage for early fall harvest; for late fall harvest, the same acreage in Texas as in 1956, but 10 percent less acreage in Florida. The production objective is about the same tonnage of early fall tomatoes as in 1956, and a late fall tonnage about a sixth larger.

### Onions

The important late summer crop of onions in 1956 amounted to 17.8 million hundredweight, substantially larger than in 1955 and moderately above the 1949-54 average. Large quantities of these onions were stored as usual for marketing throughout the fall and winter. The disappearance of onions this past fall exceeded those of a year earlier, and supplies in early January were only moderately above those of 1956 and were below the 1949-55 average. Stocks of onions January 1 were 4.7 million hundredweight compared with almost 4.5 million a year earlier and 1949-54 average of 5.0 million hundredweight. Prices received by growers for onions during the first half of December averaged only 90 cents per 50-pound sack, 35 cents below those of the previous year and 52 cents below the 1949-54 average. However, prices have strengthened in recent weeks. Old onions should move well during the next few months, and prices should improve further since supplies of early spring crop onions are expected to be smaller than a year earlier.

Acreage of early spring onions in South Texas is down about a third from 1956, and a fifth below average. The reduction occurred because of sharp cuts in dry-land acreage at Raymondville and in the Coastal Bend where there has been a critical shortage of moisture. There was also some reduction in the irrigated onion acreage in the Raymondville area. Acreage was increased, however, in the Laredo, Winter Garden and Eagle Pass areas where water is ample. Although no production estimate is available until early March, the pattern of plantings indicates that production is likely to be substantially smaller than last year. Reports indicate that growers plan to plant about a fifth more acreage to onions for late spring harvest. If yields are near the 1952-56 average, production on the indicated acreage will be substantially larger than a year earlier.

Prices received by growers of early summer onions were very strong in 1956, largely because the small late spring crop was cleaned up earlier than usual, and there was no serious overlap with early summer production. The guide for 1957 suggests the same acreage and substantially the same production of early summer onions as in 1956.



Despite relatively low prices received for 1955 late summer onions, growers in 1956 cut acreage only slightly. Yields were substantially higher, and production was about a tenth larger. Price fell to low levels when harvest of late summer onions attained volume. However, prices have moved up from the harvest low and are expected to improve further. The acreage-marketing guide recommends a 10 percent cut in acreage from 1956, with the objective of a sixth less production.

### Cantaloups

Following a favorable marketing season in 1955, acreage of cantaloups for 1956 spring harvest was increased in all producing States. In spite of below average yields, 1956 production was slightly larger than 1955 and almost a fifth above the 1949-54 average. The early summer crop offered less competition than usual, and prices were moderate during most of the season.

No information is yet available on probable plantings for 1957 spring harvest. The Department of Agriculture guide suggests a 5 percent cut from 1956 acreage, with a production goal about the same as in 1956.

Disease problems in Arizona and dry cool weather last spring in Georgia were largely responsible for a sharp curtailment of cantaloup acreage for early spring harvest. Yields were also low, and production was much smaller than in 1955 and less than half the 1950-54 average. Prices were about in line with the 1950-54 average. Production of cantaloup for mid-summer harvest was about a sixth smaller in 1956 than in 1955 largely because of a cut in acreage; however, production for late summer was slightly larger than in 1956. Season average prices for both mid- and late summer melons were substantially above the low levels of the preceding summer, but about in line with the 1950-54 average. The guide recommends for early spring harvest an acreage equal to last year in Georgia and South Carolina. A 20 percent increase is suggested in Arizona, if it appears that crown blight there can be effectively controlled. The same acreage and slightly smaller production are suggested for mid-summer harvest; no change is suggested in acreage or production of late summer cantaloups.

### Watermelons

Acreage of 1956 late spring watermelons was up 5 percent from 1955, and production was moderately larger. Maturity of the important crop of early summer melons was delayed in the Southeast which resulted in less than usual competition from these States. Prices of the late spring crop were a little lower than in 1955, but about in line with the 1949-54 average. Early indications are that growers of late spring melons in Florida will have a substantially larger acreage for harvest in 1957. Despite some cut in California acreage, yields near the average of recent years would result in a crop about as large as last year.

Low prices in 1955 and cold dry weather during the growing season in the South resulted in a substantial cut in acreage planted for early summer

harvest in 1956. Yields were also lower, and production was about a sixth smaller than in 1955. The crop was late and there was very little overlap from late spring shipments. Season average prices were well above those of 1955 and about in line with the 1949-54 average. The Department guide suggest a 5 percent cut in planted acreage in 1957, with the objective of a moderately larger production. For the less important late summer crop, the guide suggests no change in acreage from 1956. Assuming no abandonment and 1952-56 average yields, such an acreage would result in moderately less tonnage than in 1956, but substantially more than the 1949-54 average.

#### VEGETABLES FOR COMMERCIAL PROCESSING

##### Production of Crops For Processing in 1956 At Record High

The production of 10 vegetable crops for commercial processing in 1956 is estimated at a record high of 8.26 million tons --- a third larger than last year and almost 40 percent above the 1945-54 average. The increased production was widespread, with lima beans, beets, sweet corn, green peas and tomatoes establishing new records. Larger crops of sweet corn and tomatoes accounted for more than 85 percent of the increase in tonnage above 1955 or average. But output of all other processing crops except asparagus was also above both the previous year and average. Tonnage of lima beans, beets, cabbage for kraut and green peas was materially larger than a year earlier, while output of snap beans, cucumbers and spinach was moderately larger. Production of asparagus was about a tenth smaller than in 1955, but well above average.

##### Larger Production Due Mainly To Higher Average Yields

Harvested acreage of processing vegetables in 1956 was only moderately larger than in 1955 and just fractionally above the 1945-54 average. Thus, had yields been near the average of recent years, production would have been only about a tenth larger than a year earlier. But yields of each vegetable, except asparagus and spinach, were substantially above the preceding year, with sharpest increases for cabbage, sweet corn and tomatoes. For the 10 processing vegetables combined average yield was up about a fourth from 1955.

##### Total Value of 1956 Processing Crops Substantially Above 1955 or Average

The aggregate value of vegetables for commercial processing in 1956 was about a fourth greater than in 1955 and almost a third above the 1945-54 average. The increase in value was due to increased volume of production and to higher prices of most items.



Prices of cabbage for sauerkraut, however, were down about a third in 1956 from a year earlier, largely because of much lower prices paid for open market purchases. Prices paid for open market stock in 1955 were very high because of the tight supplies, while supplies in 1956 were large and prices relatively low. Prices of asparagus for processing were also substantially lower than in 1955, and beets were moderately lower. Prices of all other processing items averaged slightly to moderately higher than a year earlier.

Smaller Production  
Needed in 1957

A substantially smaller tonnage of vegetables for processing is needed this year. The relatively heavy supplies of many products from the 1956 pack are resulting in a serious cost-price squeeze on many processors. Despite reasonable retail prices and relatively heavy promotions, aggregate supplies appear more than ample to satisfy anticipated demand. Thus, it is expected that stocks of both canned and frozen vegetables at the end of the current marketing season will be substantially larger than in 1956. A 1957 pack of canned vegetables as large as that of 1956, together with larger prospective beginning stocks, would be expected to result in severely depressed prices to processors.

The Department acreage-marketing guide recommends an 8 percent cut from the 1956 level in acreage of vegetables for commercial processing. The suggested acreage, with yields by States near the average of recent years, would result in about a fourth less tonnage.

Among vegetables for processing, the guide recommends a 10 percent cut from the 1956 level in acreage of lima beans, with the objective of a 20 percent smaller production; the same acreage but a 9 percent cut in production of snap beans; a 15 percent reduction in acreage of beets and 20 percent less tonnage; a 10 percent cut in acreage of cabbage, with the objective of a fourth less production; a 10 percent smaller acreage and a fourth less tonnage of sweet corn; 5 percent fewer acres of green peas and 16 percent less production; a 5 percent cut in acreage of spinach, with the objective of a 13 percent smaller output; a 30 percent cut in tomato acreage in California and a 5 percent cut in all other States, with the objective of 28 percent less production; the guide suggests a 5 percent larger acreage of cucumbers, but average yields would result in a slightly smaller production.

CANNED VEGETABLES

1956 Pack At  
Record High

Production of vegetables for commercial processing and incomplete data on pack indicate that the total pack of canned vegetables in 1956 set a new record. Among the more important items, the packs of corn, tomatoes and

tomato juice were much larger than in 1955 or the 1949-54 average. The pack of canned peas was moderately larger than a year earlier or average, while the pack of snap beans was slightly larger than the previous year and substantially above average. For other items on which information is available, the packs of sauerkraut, cucumbers for pickles, tomato catsup, chili sauce, lima beans, and pumpkin and squash were significantly larger than a year earlier, while the pack of asparagus was smaller.

### Remaining Supplies

#### Probably At Record Level

Information is not yet available on total canner and distributor holdings on January 1. Size of pack and incomplete stocks data for earlier periods indicate total stocks of canned vegetables are substantially larger than either a year ago or the 1949-55 average. Among the items on which information is available, canner holdings on January 1, 1957, compared with 1956, were up 32 percent for sweet corn and 59 percent for tomato catsup; holdings of green peas showed a more moderate increase of 9 percent. Canner stocks of asparagus were 4 percent smaller than on January 1, 1956.

Demand for processed vegetables during the remainder of the current marketing season is expected to exceed that of a year earlier. Supplies of fresh vegetables may be moderately smaller than in the same period last year. In addition, larger supplies of most canned items, and increased promotions are expected to result in greater aggregate consumption than a year earlier. In late December-early January, f.o.b. prices paid to canners averaged slightly to moderately lower than a year earlier. Prices of corn were substantially lower, and prices of lima beans, beets, sauerkraut and tomatoes were a little lower. Indications are that retail prices of a number of items are also a little lower than a year earlier. Despite the anticipated increase in disappearance during the next several months, stocks at the beginning of the new pack year are expected to be substantially larger this year than last. Thus, in order to bring supplies in balance with anticipated demand, processors should plan a substantially smaller pack of canned vegetables in 1957.

### FROZEN VEGETABLES

#### 1956 Pack Largest Ever

The frozen vegetable industry continued its rapid growth in 1956. Indications are that the 1956 pack of frozen vegetables was substantially above 1955 and the largest of record. The pack of frozen asparagus was 36.2 million pounds, about a fourth larger than last year. The green pea pack amounted to a record 352 million pounds, about 52 percent more than in 1955. The pack of cut corn, at 115 million pounds, was about 9 percent above the previous peak of 1953. Although pack figures are not yet available for other vegetables, indications are that the pack of most items exceeded 1955.

Record Quantity  
in Cold Storage  
on January 1

Total cold storage holdings of frozen vegetables on January 1 amounted to 861 million pounds--- more than a third above a year earlier and the largest quantity ever held on that date. About 60 percent of the total increase over a year earlier was accounted for by the 75 percent larger holdings of green peas. But holdings of each of the other items were also larger than on January 1 last year. Biggest percentage increases were in holdings of broccoli, cauliflower, asparagus, Brussel sprouts, and sweet corn; increases in lima beans, snap beans, and spinach were more moderate.

Movement Good, Another  
Large Pack Likely in 1957

The net movement of frozen vegetables out of cold storage during December was materially greater than in the same month last season. Since supplies are much larger and prices expected to be a little lower than a year earlier, rate of movement during the remainder of the season is expected to continue well above a year earlier. Despite a substantially heavier movement into consumption channels, stocks at the end of the current marketing season are expected to be materially larger than in 1956. Processors are again expected to put up a large pack, however, because of expanding markets for both home and institutional use.

POTATOES

1956 Late Crop Production  
Above Normal Requirements

Total potato production in 1956 is estimated at about 243 million hundredweight, 7 percent above both 1955 and the 1949-54 average. Not only was production larger than a year earlier, but the increase was concentrated in the late crop. Aggregate production through early summer was about 8 percent smaller than a year earlier. But production of the important late summer and fall crops was up 20 million hundredweight, 11 percent above a year earlier and 9 percent above the 1949-54 average. This large late crop production was considerably in excess of normal market requirements and has exerted downward pressure on prices.



### The Potato Diversion Program

Prices for potatoes declined sharply from the early summer high, as increasing supplies became available from the late crop harvest. By mid-September prices received by growers averaged only \$1.66 per hundredweight, and it was clearly evident that the potato industry was in need of a concerted and orderly marketing program. Industry groups cooperated with the Department of Agriculture to formulate a potato diversion program to assist the industry in disposing of supplies in excess of normal market requirements. Under the program, announced in late September, growers in participating areas receive supplementary payments for potatoes of U. S. No. 2 or better quality diverted to flour, starch or livestock feed, provided the potatoes meet minimum diameter or weight requirements. Rates of payment were fixed at 50 cents per hundredweight for 1956 crop potatoes diverted through December 31, 1956; 40 cents through March 31, 1957, and 30 cents until termination of the program, but in no event later than June 30. The higher rate early in the marketing season was designed to encourage early diversion of the crop.

Colorado, Idaho, Maine, Oregon, Washington and Northern California have been approved for participation in the program. Although limited quantities of potatoes were also diverted in New York, Minnesota and North Dakota, programs in those States were withdrawn because growers failed to carry through required marketing plans. Despite a somewhat later start this year, total diversions through January 26 amounted to 7.3 million hundredweight, about 1.1 million hundredweight more than for the same period last year. Out of total diversions of 1956 crop potatoes, 4.9 million hundredweight, or about two-thirds were eligible for payments under the diversion program.

### Prospect For Large Supplies Into Spring

Total stocks of fall crop potatoes held by growers and local dealers in the 26 fall producing States amounted to 101 million hundredweight on January 1, compared to about 87 million hundredweight a year earlier. The geographic distribution of holdings is more normal this year than last, when holdings in the Eastern States were unusually heavy and in the Central States relatively light. About 41 percent of January 1, 1957 holdings were located in the Eastern States, 24 percent in the Central States and 35 percent in the Western States.



The 1957 crop of winter potatoes in Florida and California is estimated at a record high of 7.6 million hundredweight --- 44 percent larger than 1956 and double the 1949-54 average. These earliest "new crop" potatoes make up a very small proportion of total annual production -- only 2 percent in 1955.

Acreage of potatoes for early spring harvest, practically all of which is in Florida, is reported up 6 percent from 1956 and almost a fifth above the 1949-54 average. Yields near the average of recent years would result in a little larger production than a year ago. Like the winter crop, the early spring crop is relatively small, accounting in recent years for less than 2 percent of total production.

The late spring crop is the most important in early production. It has accounted for more than 10 percent of annual production in recent years, and about 80 percent of production during the first half of the year. The late spring crop in 1956 amounted to 24.3 hundredweight. Although no production estimate is available for the 1957 late spring crop, indicated acreage is slightly larger than the 1956 acreage. Yields near the average of recent years, on indicated acreage, would result in a production moderately larger than in 1956.

The price of potatoes into the spring will be influenced not only by total supplies available, but also by pattern of harvest of new crop potatoes, quality of both old and new potatoes and quantities moved into nonfood uses. Early indications, however, are that supplies available for distribution in normal market channels into the spring are likely to be larger than a year earlier.

### Foreign Trade

United states foreign trade in potatoes is relatively small compared with production, with annual exports typically exceeding imports. Most of our import-export business is conducted with Canada. Imports of potatoes in the 1955-56 season amounted to a little more than 2 million hundredweight, and exports amounted to nearly 4 million hundredweight. During the next few months, exports from the United States are expected to be lighter than a year earlier when unusual export outlets developed because of freeze damage in Europe. Imports from Canada may also be below a year ago.

United States imports of potatoes, except certified seed, are restricted to certain minimum grades and sizes. The import restriction, similar to one in effect last season, is effective from October 21, 1956 through July 13, 1957. Canada also has minimum grade and size restrictions on imports.

Prospects Beyond Spring

It is, of course, too early in the year to assess the supply and price situation for potatoes in the coming summer and fall. But it is timely for those engaged in the potato industry to start planning the summer and fall crops. It is well for producers also to remember that demand for summer and fall potatoes is very inelastic--i.e., that small changes in production result in much larger and opposite changes in price. Thus, prices which growers receive for these crops will depend largely on the level of production. Consequently, 1957 late summer and fall production must be cut back substantially from 1956, if growers of late crop potatoes are to avoid the risk of another season of relatively low prices.

The Department of Agriculture acreage marketing guide for summer and fall potatoes, to be released in February, will contain specific acreage recommendations for States producing potatoes for early summer, late summer and fall harvests.

## SWEETPOTATOES

Supply Substantially Smaller  
Than a Year Earlier and  
Below Average

The 1956 sweetpotato crop of 16.9 million hundredweight was about a fifth smaller than the 1955 crop and 16 percent below the 1949-54 average. Although average yield was a little lower in 1956 than in 1955, the sharp cut in production was due largely to a 17 percent reduction in acreage harvested. In no State was harvested acreage larger than in 1955, and only New Jersey and Missouri had a larger production. Acreage harvested in Louisiana was down 16 percent from 1955, and production down 13 percent. Plantings in Louisiana were delayed by dry weather, but were actually down much less than reported in June. Rains after mid-September were favorable for development of the crop, which is of better quality than the year before. Low prices received for the 1955 Texas crop together with drought at planting time, resulted in the lowest acreage of record there. Prolonged drought also lowered yields sharply, and 1956 production was only about a third that of 1955.

Prices for 1956 Crop  
Well Above Low Levels  
of a Year Earlier

The rather sharp cut in production in 1956 has resulted in a somewhat better market situation than prevailed in the early part of the 1955-56 season. Mid-month prices received by farmers in the September-December period averaged \$3.77 per hundredweight compared with \$3.07 a year earlier. In the week ended January 19, f.o.b. prices at southwestern Louisiana shipping points averaged \$7.50 a hundredweight for cured U. S. No. 1 Puerto Rican type sweetpotatoes--about \$2.30 per hundredweight more than the low price of a year earlier. Prices are expected to advance further into the spring and to remain substantially above the low levels of a year earlier. Despite the substantial cut in production and generally good quality, supplies have been about in line with market requirements, and prices have been at moderate levels.

Demand for Sweetpotatoes  
Has Declined

The postwar period has witnessed a sharp decline in sweetpotato production, down from an annual average of almost 35 million hundredweight in the 1939-44 period to less than 18 million hundredweight in 1951-56. The decline appears to have been due partly to production problems, and partly to a continuing decline in demand. Although production of sweetpotatoes in 1956 was about a sixth smaller than the 1949-54 average, prices in September-December were substantially lower than the 1949-54 average.



Acreage-Marketing Guide Suggests  
Moderately Larger Acreage  
This Year Than Last

In view of the declining demand for sweetpotatoes during the past few years, the Department of Agriculture acreage guide recommends for 1957, only a 5 percent increase from the record low acreage planted in 1956. Yields by States near the 1953-56 average, on the recommended acreage, would result in a production slightly larger than in 1956, but about a sixth smaller than the 1949-54 average.

DRY EDIBLE BEANS

Supplies a Little Smaller  
This Season Than Last

Production of dry edible beans in 1956, at 17.1 million 100-pound bags, was slightly larger than in 1955. The larger production was due to higher average yields, as acreage harvested was about 6 percent less than the previous year. But stocks at the beginning of the marketing season were more than a million bags less than a year earlier, and total supplies were down about 660,000 bags. Total supplies of white beans are about a tenth larger than in the previous marketing season, with larger supplies of pea beans accounting for the increase. Supplies of great northern and small whites are a little smaller than in the 1955-56 season. Supplies of colored beans are about a sixth smaller than last season, largely because of about a third less pintos. Among other classes of colored beans, supplies of pinks and small reds are down substantially, while red kidneys are up almost 60 percent. Blackeyes are also in lighter supply than a year earlier. Supplies of lima beans are moderately smaller than a year earlier, with lighter supplies of large limas more than offsetting the larger supplies of baby limas.

Domestic and Export Outlets  
May Take Fewer Dry Beans  
This Season Than Last

Domestic disappearance of dry beans in the 1955-56 marketing season was moderately above both the previous season and the 1949-54 average. This was due in part to the lower prices for 1955 crop beans than for 1954 production, and to a fairly well balanced production of the various classes. Because some important classes of colored beans are in substantially shorter supply, domestic disappearance is likely to be a little smaller this season than last. Exports are also expected to be somewhat smaller in 1956-57 than last season when substantial quantities of Government-owned beans were exported through donations to foreign relief agencies.



Total Supplies More Than Ample,  
Prices Likely To Average Near  
Year Earlier Levels

Although some classes of dry edible beans will be in tight supply during the remainder of the current season, particularly pintos, overall supplies appear to be more than ample. Supplies of pea beans and red kidneys appear to be considerably in excess of normal trade requirements, and substantial quantities are being placed under price support. About three and a half million bags of 1955 crop beans were placed under price support, 1.8 million bags of which were delivered to the CCC.

The average national support rate, at \$6.31 per hundred pounds, is substantially the same as a year ago, and prices received by farmers for the 1956-57 marketing season are expected to average about the same as a year earlier. But prices compared with last season will vary by classes. Prices of pintos, pink beans and blackeyes are expected to average higher than a year earlier, and prices of pea and red kidney beans somewhat lower.

DRY FIELD PEAS

Supplies of Dry Peas  
Much Larger Than a Year  
Ago and Well Above Average

Farmers planted about 15 percent more acres to dry field peas in 1956 than in 1955. Weather was also more favorable for development of the 1956 crop; abandonment was lighter, and yields were 50 percent higher than the poor yields of the previous season, and about a fifth above the 1945-54 average. Production was up sharply, to 4.7 million 100-pound bags compared with 2.5 million in 1955. Beginning stocks were light, but supplies available for distribution in the 1956-57 season were more than 80 percent larger than in the previous season, and about a fifth above the 10-year average. Both Idaho and Washington, the main producing States, showed big gains over 1955. The big increase in Washington output was due largely to higher yields; the increase in Idaho was due about equally to higher yields and increased acreage.

Both Domestic and Export  
Outlets to Take Larger  
Quantities Than a Year Earlier

Although supplies of dry peas available for distribution in 1956-57 are almost double the light supplies of a year earlier, total prospective demand is also up sharply. The domestic market is expected to take larger quantities than last year, when supplies were tight and prices high. At least a part of the increased domestic disappearance probably will be used to restock distribution pipelines. Foreign demand for United States production is also up substantially from a year earlier. The crop in Western Europe was severely damaged by weather. Consequently, U. S. exports to the European market are running well ahead of the light volume last season.

Prices of 1956 Crop Peas  
Likely to Continue Near Average

The export demand for 1956 crop peas is an important factor influencing the U. S. price, since supplies are far in excess of domestic requirements. Export demand has taken much of the pressure of large supplies off the domestic market and held prices at reasonable levels. Prices in mid-December, at \$4.44 per hundred pounds, were only moderately below the 1949-54 average for that date, but were more than \$1.50 below those of the previous two seasons. Prices during the remainder of the marketing season may continue near the 1949-54 average, but are expected to remain well below the high levels of the past two seasons.

Probably Fewer  
Dry Peas Needed  
Next Season

In recent years about 750,000 to 1.0 million bags of dry field peas (cleaned basis) have been consumed in this country as human food. Another 1.5 to 1.75 million bags have been used for seed, fed to livestock, and lost through shrinkage. These uses add up to a total domestic requirement of about 2.5 to 2.7 million bags. The remaining production has been exported or carried over into the following crop year; however, exports typically amount to less than 700,000 bags, except in years when the European crop is short.

Total utilization of dry peas, thus, amounts to 3.0 to 3.5 million bags in most years, far less than the 4.7 million bags produced in 1956. It is only the unusually large export demand which has prevented prices of dry peas from being severely depressed. If producers are to avoid the risk of a sharp price break toward the end of the current season or the beginning of the new season, they should plan for a substantially smaller acreage and production in 1957.

REVIEW OF 1956 PRODUCTION AND  
VALUE OF VEGETABLES FOR  
FRESH MARKET

Aggregate Production  
and Value Up in 1956

Aggregate production and value of 28 vegetable crops, including melons, was up a little from the 1955 level. Prices also averaged higher, apparently a result of substantially higher prices for a few important relatively high priced items in shorter supply, such as snap beans, green peppers and tomatoes. In general vegetables for which annual production was up in 1956 brought lower prices than a year earlier. The more important of such items were asparagus, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery and lettuce. However, as usual, the yields, production and prices received by farmers for fresh market vegetables varied considerably from one season to another.

1956 Winter Production  
Up From a Year Earlier, Value Down

Production of winter-season vegetables in 1956 was about 4 percent larger than a year earlier and 11 percent above the 1949-55 average. Among the more important vegetables, supplies of cabbage, cauliflower, lettuce and spinach were substantially larger than a year earlier, and supplies of carrots, celery and green peppers moderately larger. The larger tonnages of cabbage, cauliflower, spinach and green peppers were due to increased acreages and higher yields; the larger tonnages of lettuce and celery were due to larger acreages as yields were down; and larger production of carrots was due to higher yield on a reduced acreage. On the other hand, supplies of snap beans and tomatoes were much smaller than in the previous winter and supplies of sweet corn and escarole moderately smaller. The smaller tonnages of tomatoes, sweet corn and escarole were due to lower average yields, and the smaller crop of string beans was a result of smaller acreage and lower yield.

The heavy supplies and consequent low prices of a number of important items, particularly celery, lettuce and cabbage, resulted in a smaller total value for 1956 winter-season vegetables. Aggregate value of winter production amounted to approximately 131 million dollars,--- 10 percent less than the value of production in the preceding winter, but about 5 percent above the 1949-55 average.



Spring Tonnage and  
Value Up From a  
Year Earlier

Production of fresh vegetables and melons in the spring of 1956 was about 5 percent larger than the previous spring and substantially above the 1949-55 average. Nearly all of the increase was due to higher average yields, since acreage was up only slightly. Chief contributors to the increased tonnage in 1956, over the previous spring, were onions, lettuce, cabbage and watermelons. The larger crops of lettuce and cabbage were due to higher yields, as acreages were down; the larger production of watermelons was due largely to increased acreage, while the larger tonnage of onions was due to more acreage and higher average yield.

Prices of 1956 spring vegetables were generally below those of 1955 early in the season, reflecting the heavy supplies. But adverse weather delayed marketing schedules for most spring vegetables later in the season, also delayed maturity and marketings of early summer crops, and prices in late May and June were well above year earlier levels. Aggregate value of spring-season production was almost a tenth greater than in the previous spring and about a sixth above the 1949-55 average.

1956 Summer Production Down  
Slightly, Value Up

Acreage of fresh vegetables and melons for 1956 summer harvest was down moderately from 1955, and production was down slightly. Biggest cut in acreage and all of the cut in production occurred in the melon group. Acreage of melons was down 11 percent and production down 14 percent. For all other vegetables combined, acreage was down only slightly from a year earlier, and production was moderately larger. Among the more important vegetables, supplies were much larger for cauliflower, substantially larger for carrots, celery, onions and tomatoes, and moderately larger for lettuce. Increases in production of cauliflower and celery were due to larger acreages and higher yields; increases in carrots, tomatoes and onions were due to substantially higher yields; and the increase in lettuce to a big increase in acreage with substantially lower yields. As a result of acreage cuts summer tonnage of snap beans was moderately smaller and output of green peppers substantially smaller than in the summer of 1955.

Total value of vegetables for summer harvest was about 7 percent greater in 1956 than 1955 and 5 percent above average. Most of the increase in value over a year earlier resulted from the larger tonnage of onions, higher prices for sweet corn, and increased tonnage and higher prices for tomatoes.

Total value of 1956 fall-season vegetables was slightly higher than a year earlier and substantially above the 1949-55 average. The larger value in 1956 compared to 1955 was largely due to the much higher prices received for a substantially smaller lettuce crop.

THE VEGETABLE SITUATION IS ISSUED 4 TIMES A YEAR,  
IN JANUARY, APRIL, JULY, AND OCTOBER

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THE NEXT ISSUE IS SCHEDULED FOR RELEASE ON  
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## TRENDS IN THE GEOGRAPHIC PATTERN OF LATE CROP POTATO PRODUCTION

The potato industry in States producing for late summer and fall harvest during the past three decades has been characterized by a sharp decline in acreage, a phenomenal rise in average yield per acre, and maintenance of a high level of production. The following discussion is a resume of important Regional and intra-Regional shifts.

Total late crop production over the past 30 years has shown no marked trend. But acreage in the 1950-54 period was less than 40 percent as large as in 1920-24, while average yield per acre was two and a half times as high. The sharpest decline in acreage, a 75 percent reduction, occurred in the Central Region where yields are lowest. But acreage in the Eastern States has been cut in half during the past thirty years, and acreage in the West is down a fourth.

The net result has been a significant shift in the regional pattern of production. The Central Region, which in 1920-24 produced almost half the total late crop, has consistently declined in importance; by 1950-54 it accounted for only a fourth. This decline has been largely offset by rapidly increasing production in the West which has increased its share from 20 to 38 percent of the total. Production in the East has increased moderately and now, like the West, accounts for about 38 percent of the total crop, compared to 33 percent in the earlier period.

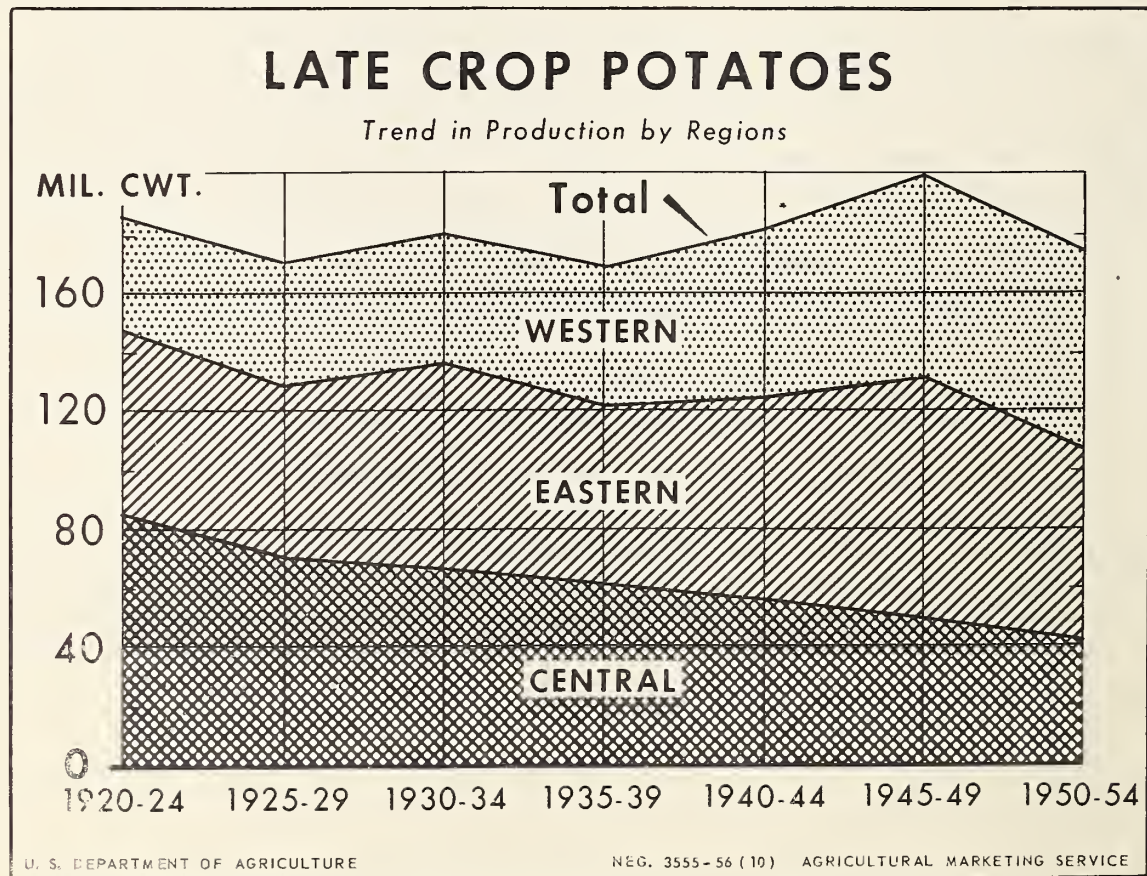




Table 2.- Late crop potatoes: Trends in acreage, yield and production by regions, 1920-54

Period	Acreage by regions			
	Central	Eastern	Western	Total
	1,000 <u>acres</u>	1,000 <u>acres</u>	1,000 <u>acres</u>	1,000 <u>acres</u>
1920-24	1,524.2	768.0	479.6	2,771.8
1925-29	1,231.0	683.9	465.5	2,380.4
1930-34	1,432.6	722.9	529.3	2,684.8
1935-39	1,177.0	658.9	461.3	2,297.2
1940-44	959.6	629.1	467.0	2,055.7
1945-49	601.3	531.1	450.0	1,582.4
1950-54	364.3	347.7	356.3	1,068.3
	Yield by regions			
	Central	Eastern	Western	Average
	<u>Cwt.</u>	<u>Cwt.</u>	<u>Cwt.</u>	<u>Cwt.</u>
1920-24	56.2	80.1	78.8	66.7
1925-29	57.4	84.8	87.8	71.2
1930-34	46.9	95.5	83.4	67.2
1935-39	51.9	92.3	101.1	73.4
1940-44	58.1	108.4	125.0	88.7
1945-49	81.6	155.6	151.1	126.3
1950-54	114.7	189.2	187.7	163.3
	Production by regions			
	Central	Eastern	Western	Total
	<u>Mil. cwt.</u>	<u>Mil. cwt.</u>	<u>Mil. cwt.</u>	<u>Mil. cwt.</u>
1920-24	85.7	61.5	37.8	185.0
1925-29	70.6	58.0	40.9	169.5
1930-34	67.1	69.0	44.2	180.3
1935-39	61.1	60.8	46.7	168.6
1940-44	55.8	68.2	58.4	182.4
1945-49	49.1	82.7	68.0	199.8
1950-54	41.8	65.8	66.9	174.5

In 1950-54, Maine, New York and Pennsylvania accounted for about 87 percent of acreage in the Eastern Region and about 92 percent of total production. Acreage in New York and Pennsylvania declined about two-thirds between 1920-24 and 1950-54. Acreage in Maine, which has the highest average yield, increased rapidly into the late 1940's, but has since declined and in the latest 5 year period was about the same as in 1920-24.

Shifts in acreage within the Region has resulted in a marked decrease in relative importance of production in Pennsylvania, moderate decreases for New York State and for other States as a group, and a substantial increase in the importance of the Maine crop. Although production in Maine has fluctuated widely during the past decade, it has typically accounted for roughly half the total production in the Eastern States. Production in the other Eastern States as a group has declined somewhat. Among States in this group, production in Massachusetts has remained about the same, but increases in Rhode Island and Connecticut have been more than offset by declines in New Hampshire, Vermont and West Virginia.

## LATE CROP POTATOES

*Trend in Production, by States, Eastern Region*

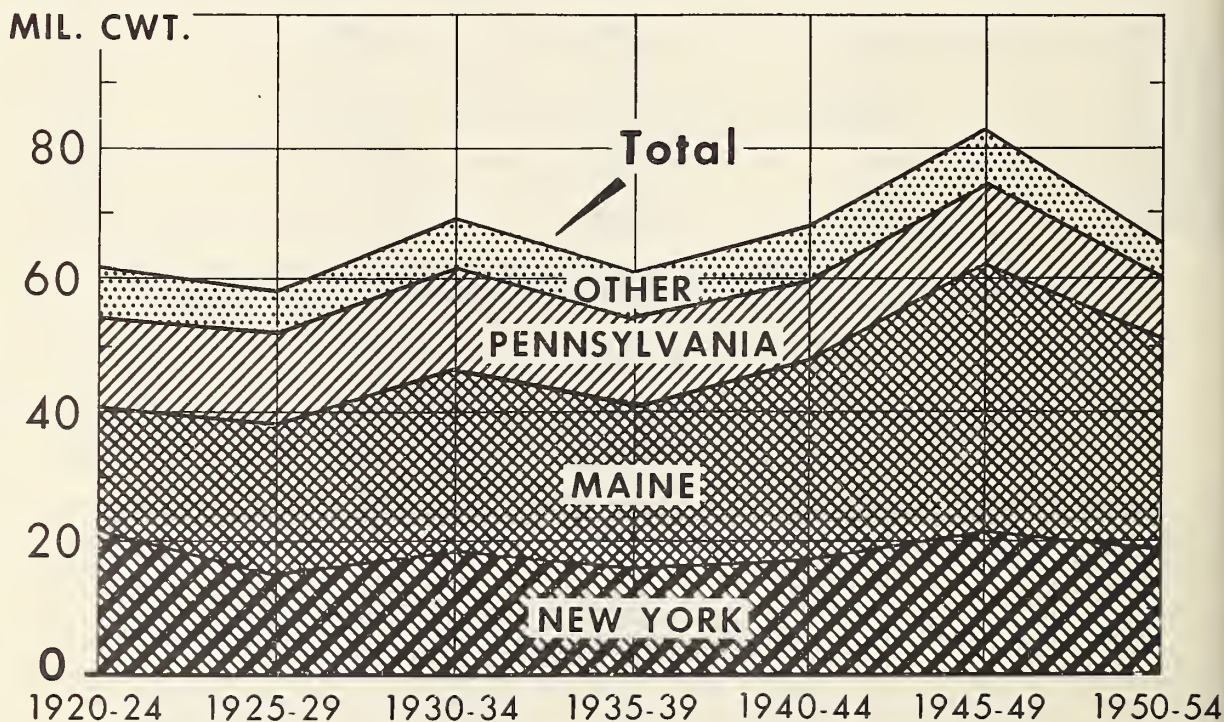


Table 3.-Late crop potatoes: Trend in acreage, yield and production, selected States, Eastern region, 1920-54

Period	Acreage, Eastern region				
	New York	Maine	Pennsylvania	Other	Total
	<u>1,000</u> <u>acres</u>	<u>1,000</u> <u>acres</u>	<u>1,000</u> <u>acres</u>	<u>1,000</u> <u>acres</u>	<u>1,000</u> <u>acres</u>
1920-24	304.8	133.2	223.0	107.0	768.0
1925-29	237.2	150.0	205.0	91.7	683.9
1930-34	237.8	171.2	214.8	99.1	722.9
1935-39	218.2	156.8	190.8	93.1	658.9
1940-44	196.4	173.2	163.2	96.3	629.1
1945-49	154.2	192.4	110.4	74.1	531.1
1950-54	104.8	132.2	67.2	43.5	347.7
	Yield, Eastern region				
	New York	Maine	Pennsylvania	Other	Average
	<u>Cwt.</u>	<u>Cwt.</u>	<u>Cwt.</u>	<u>Cwt.</u>	<u>Cwt.</u>
1920-24	71.2	143.0	60.8	67.4	80.1
1925-29	63.7	152.3	68.3	65.9	84.8
1930-34	79.2	161.6	71.1	72.9	95.4
1935-39	73.6	157.0	70.3	72.5	92.3
1940-44	89.3	176.4	72.9	85.0	108.4
1945-49	139.9	214.2	110.4	103.5	155.7
1950-54	179.2	243.4	139.2	125.6	189.2
	Production, Eastern region				
	New York	Maine	Pennsylvania	Other	Total
	<u>Mil.</u> <u>cwt.</u>	<u>Mil.</u> <u>cwt.</u>	<u>Mil.</u> <u>cwt.</u>	<u>Mil.</u> <u>cwt.</u>	<u>Mil.</u> <u>cwt.</u>
1920-24	21.7	19.1	13.5	7.2	61.5
1925-29	15.1	22.9	14.0	6.0	58.0
1930-34	18.8	27.7	15.3	7.2	69.0
1935-39	16.1	24.6	13.4	6.7	60.8
1940-44	17.5	30.6	11.9	8.2	68.2
1945-49	21.6	41.2	12.2	7.7	82.7
1950-54	18.8	32.2	9.3	5.5	65.8

1/ New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut and West Virginia.



Total acreage in the Central Region has been reduced by 75 percent during the past 30 years, and production has been cut in half. Among the more important States, acreage in Minnesota, Michigan and Wisconsin was only about a fifth as large in 1950-54 as in 1920-24. But in North Dakota, where average yield has shown the sharpest increase, acreage has declined less than a third.

These shifts in acreage and the more rapid increase in average yield in North Dakota have resulted in a rapid increase in the importance of that State in the Regional total. Thirty years ago North Dakota accounted for less than 8 percent of the Regional production, while Minnesota contributed 26 percent, Michigan 22, Wisconsin 21, and other States as a group 23 percent of the total. As North Dakota rose to first place in the Central Region with a quarter of the total production in 1950-54, other main producing States declined in relative importance. Among the less important States, production in Ohio and Indiana is more than half as large as in the early 1920's, but production in Illinois and Iowa is only about a tenth as large and South Dakota only a fourth as large as in the earlier period.

## LATE CROP POTATOES

*Trend in Production, by States, Central Region*

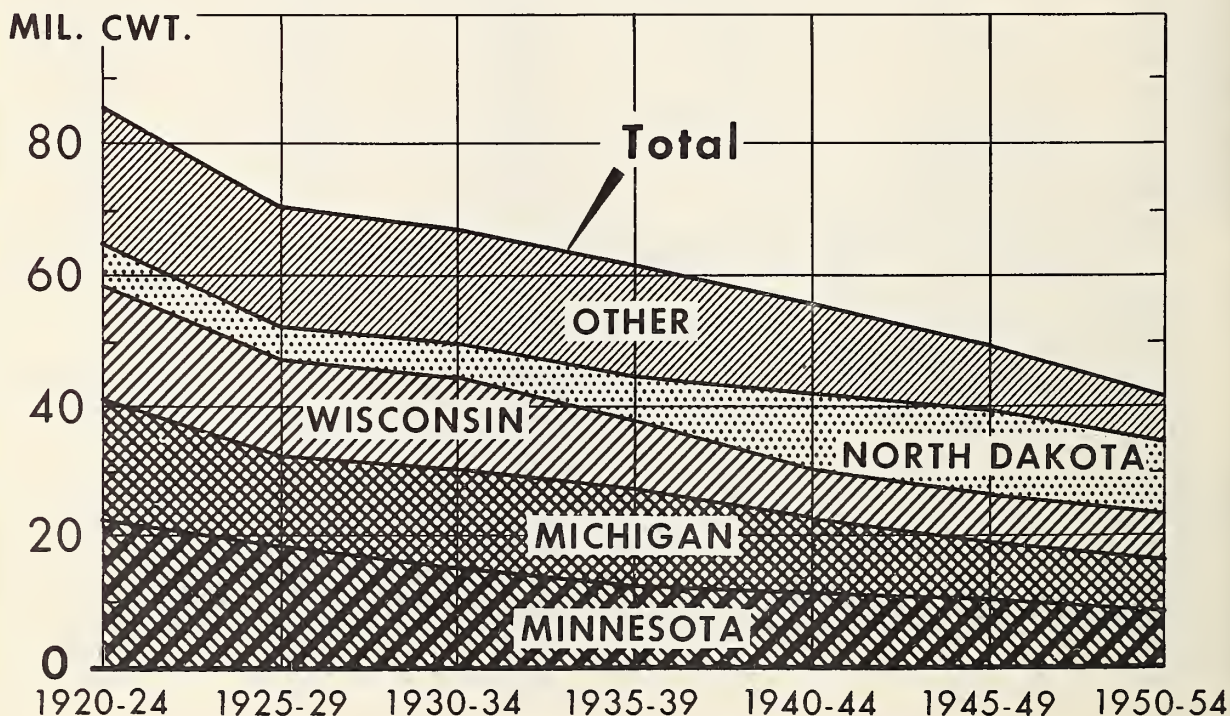


Table 4.- Late crop potatoes: Trend in acreage, yield and production, selected States, Central region, 1920-54

Period	Acreage, Central region					
	Minne-	Michigan	Wisconsin	North	Other	Total
	sota			Dakota	1/	
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	acres	acres	acres	acres	acres	acres
1920-24	397.4	303.2	288.6	133.8	401.2	1,524.2
1925-29	320.2	238.8	236.6	99.6	335.8	1,231.0
1930-34	361.6	284.8	274.8	137.4	374.0	1,432.6
1935-39	259.4	257.0	224.4	123.0	313.2	1,177.0
1940-44	208.8	190.4	163.0	157.6	239.8	959.6
1945-49	128.4	120.2	95.0	137.2	120.5	601.3
1950-54	81.4	66.8	56.4	93.8	65.9	364.3
	Yield, Central region					
	Minne-	Michigan	Wisconsin	North	Other	Average
	sota			Dakota	1/	
	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.
1920-24	55.7	62.4	61.8	50.7	49.8	56.2
1925-29	57.8	59.2	62.6	47.9	54.8	57.4
1930-34	41.8	54.3	51.5	35.9	46.6	46.8
1934-39	47.8	57.9	47.6	52.2	53.5	51.9
1940-44	53.9	60.1	48.8	69.7	59.0	58.1
1945-49	78.8	76.5	78.5	90.6	82.1	81.7
1950-54	107.4	112.0	133.7	111.2	115.1	114.7
	Production, Central region					
	Minne-	Michigan	Wisconsin	North	Other	Total
	sota			Dakota	1/	
	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.
	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.
1920-24	22.1	18.9	17.8	6.8	20.1	85.7
1925-29	18.5	14.2	14.8	4.8	18.3	70.6
1930-34	15.1	15.5	14.2	4.9	17.4	67.1
1935-39	12.4	14.9	10.7	6.4	16.7	61.1
1940-44	11.2	11.4	7.9	11.0	14.3	55.8
1945-49	10.1	9.2	7.5	12.4	9.9	49.1
1950-54	8.8	7.5	7.5	10.4	7.6	41.8

1/ South Dakota, Iowa, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois.



Acreage of potatoes in the Western Region has declined a fourth during the past three decades, but yields have moved up sharply, and total production has increased about 75 percent. Among the more important States, acreage has more than doubled in Idaho since the early 1920's, giving that State more than 40 percent of the total acreage in 1950-54 compared with only 14 percent in 1920-24. Acreage declined only moderately in Oregon, but declined roughly 50 percent in Colorado, California and Washington. In other States as a group plantings declined more than 60 percent.

The net result of yield and acreage shifts within the Region has been a big increase in the relative importance of potato production in Idaho. Production in Idaho amounted to less than a fifth of the Regional total in the early 1920's and was a little smaller than production in Colorado. But output in Idaho increased rapidly and by 1950-54 accounted for about 41 percent of the Regional total. While actual production increased in California, Colorado, Washington and Oregon, with the exception of Oregon their relative importance in the Region declined. Among the less important States, production has decreased since the early 1920's in Nebraska, Montana, and Nevada, remained about the same in New Mexico, and increased in Utah and Wyoming.

## LATE CROP POTATOES

*Trend in Production, by States, Western Region*

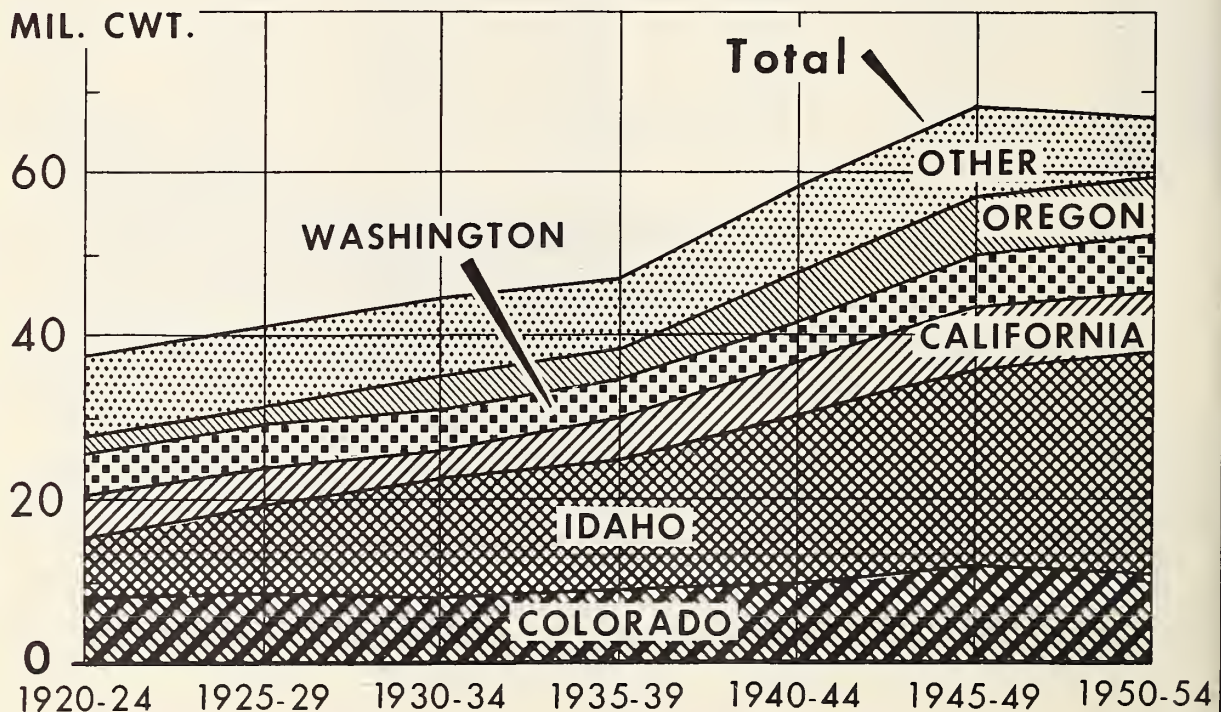




Table 5.- Late crop potatoes: Trend in acreage, yield and production, selected States, Western region, 1920-54

Period	Acreage, Western region						
	Idaho	Colorado	California	Washington	Oregon	Other	Total
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres <sup>1/</sup>	1,000 acres
1920-24	65.2	98.0	61.8	54.6	37.2	162.8	479.6
1925-29	89.0	88.2	42.4	53.0	36.4	156.5	465.5
1930-34	115.8	101.2	25.2	52.8	45.2	189.1	529.3
1935-39	118.6	90.4	33.4	42.8	37.2	138.9	461.3
1940-44	148.0	75.0	36.0	36.6	41.4	130.0	467.0
1945-49	162.4	73.8	38.0	33.2	42.8	99.7	449.9
1950-54	150.7	53.0	29.6	28.4	34.8	59.9	356.4
	Yield, Western region						
	Idaho	Colorado	California	Washington	Oregon	Other	Average
	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt. <sup>1/</sup>	Cwt.
1920-24	110.7	80.9	92.0	96.2	63.2	57.4	78.8
1925-29	118.9	97.7	108.3	101.3	68.1	59.1	88.1
1930-34	126.2	74.8	137.9	98.2	84.6	50.2	83.5
1935-39	132.6	94.7	157.6	110.5	103.2	61.4	101.2
1940-44	140.9	122.9	186.1	133.4	137.4	84.9	125.1
1945-49	149.9	153.3	203.7	197.1	162.1	110.2	151.1
1950-54	182.2	195.8	243.8	241.5	217.5	121.9	187.7
	Production, Western region						
	Idaho	Colorado	California	Washington	Oregon	Other	Total
	Mil. cwt.	Mil. cwt.	Mil. cwt.	Mil. cwt.	Mil. cwt.	Mil. cwt. <sup>1/</sup>	Mil. cwt.
1920-24	7.2	7.9	5.7	5.2	2.4	9.4	37.8
1925-29	10.6	8.6	4.6	5.4	2.5	9.3	41.0
1930-34	14.6	7.6	3.5	5.2	3.8	9.5	44.2
1935-39	15.7	8.6	5.3	4.7	3.8	8.6	46.7
1940-44	20.9	9.2	6.7	4.9	5.7	11.0	58.4
1945-49	24.4	11.3	7.7	6.6	6.9	11.1	68.0
1950-54	27.6	10.4	7.2	6.9	7.6	7.2	66.9

<sup>1/</sup> Nebraska, Montana, Wyoming, New Mexico, Utah, and Nevada.

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Table 6.- Vegetables for fresh market: Commercial acreage, production, and season average price per hundredweight received by farmers, for principal crops, average 1949-54, annual 1955 and 1956

Crop	Acreage			Production			Price per hundredweight		
	6 year average 1949-54	1955	1956	6 year average 1949-54	1955	1956	6 year average 1949-54	1955	1956
	Acres	Acres	Acres	1,000 cwt.	1,000 cwt.	1,000 cwt.	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Artichokes	7,730	8,900	9,400	308	356	320	9.20	8.50	9.60
Asparagus	42,270	36,070	43,910	1,111	1,014	1,166	13.17	15.00	14.29
Beans, lima	20,550	15,750	14,580	516	372	356	8.24	7.15	8.79
Beans, snap	170,640	152,450	137,050	5,437	5,543	4,724	8.25	7.91	9.10
Beets	7,410	5,840	5,930	770	610	621	2.62	2.56	2.72
Broccoli 1/	39,380	39,660	44,500	2,921	2,105	2,546	8.50	7.91	7.87
Brussels sprouts 1/	5,680	5,000	6,400	527	467	671	9.87	8.75	8.70
Cabbage 1/	139,750	122,820	127,160	22,831	18,975	23,247	1.92	2.24	1.60
Cantaloups 2/	127,030	139,770	130,900	11,667	12,803	11,702	3.92	4.20	4.22
Carrots 1/ 3/	82,760	79,230	77,890	14,979	14,293	15,574	3.08	3.18	2.70
Cauliflower 1/	30,450	29,380	32,630	4,521	4,568	5,249	3.35	3.62	3.28
Celery 1/ 3/	36,530	33,040	35,800	13,954	14,903	15,817	3.75	3.95	3.37
Corn, sweet	208,710	198,300	192,850	11,203	12,489	12,390	3.51	3.21	3.77
Cucumbers	48,880	51,650	49,050	3,651	4,133	3,794	5.00	4.62	5.55
Eggplant	5,010	4,550	3,950	472	507	435	4.79	4.27	5.40
Escarole	4,640	5,600	5,750	594	779	738	4.52	4.03	4.52
Garlic 1/ 3/	2,260	2,500	2,400	138	212	204	11.99	11.03	13.44
Honey balls	440	---	---	39	---	---	5.09	---	---
Honey dews	10,330	13,600	12,700	1,444	1,559	1,585	4.59	4.74	4.45
Kale	2,870	2,700	2,600	213	184	182	3.58	4.45	3.85
Lettuce	210,480	210,250	228,380	29,337	32,093	33,667	4.15	4.34	3.99
Onions 1/ 3/	120,790	114,230	123,640	21,680	21,412	24,724	2.69	2.37	2.61
Peas, green	19,730	11,760	9,850	617	434	333	7.47	8.11	8.86
Peppers, green	41,180	45,040	40,140	2,463	2,914	2,692	8.19	7.68	8.78
Shallots	5,600	7,300	6,500	145	230	195	7.99	5.48	6.18
Spinach 4/	44,300	30,050	30,890	2,150	1,625	1,740	5.53	6.17	5.98
Tomatoes	231,580	234,930	228,330	18,351	20,860	19,962	6.63	6.75	7.99
Watermelons	388,630	441,250	411,700	27,213	34,878	31,577	1.36	1.29	1.43
Total	2,055,610	2,041,620	2,014,880	198,272	210,348	216,211	3.66	3.72	3.74

1/ Includes some quantities used for processing. 2/ Includes Casabas, Persians, and other muskmelons.

3/ Includes production used for dehydration. 4/ Includes production for processing in those states for which separate estimates of fresh market and processing production are not prepared.



Table 7.- Vegetables, fresh, potatoes and sweetpotatoes: Unloads at 19 markets, indicated periods in 1955 and 1956, with comparisons

(Expressed in carlot equivalents)

Commodity	1955										1956									
	September					October					August					September				
	Rail, boat, and air	Truck	Imports	Total	Rail, boat, and air	Truck	Imports	Total	Rail, boat, and air	Truck	Imports	Total	Rail, boat, and air	Truck	Imports	Total	Rail, boat, and air	Truck	Imports	Total
Asparagus	---	---	---	---	---	9	---	---	---	---	1	---	---	---	---	1	---	---	---	---
Beans, Lima, snap and fava	3	1,205	---	1,208	27	1,170	---	1,197	---	---	1,609	---	1,610	---	---	1,239	76	1,119	---	5
Beets	---	174	---	174	---	212	---	212	---	---	197	---	197	---	---	158	---	---	---	1,195
Broccoli	63	96	---	159	139	280	---	419	24	83	---	107	---	67	104	---	121	249	---	181
Brussels sprouts	29	55	---	84	41	81	---	122	1	16	---	17	---	6	53	---	42	106	---	370
Cabbage	103	2,135	---	2,238	66	1,917	2	1,985	26	2,156	---	---	2,182	24	1,930	---	27	2,271	---	148
Cauliflowers and other	3,498	1,520	6	5,024	1,267	521	---	1,788	3,706	2,893	---	---	---	2,446	1,908	---	---	---	---	2,298
Melons 1/	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Carrots	778	831	4	1,613	600	821	---	1,461	633	750	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1,547
Cauliflower	97	577	---	674	69	1,579	---	1,648	152	685	---	---	---	56	1,212	---	63	1,644	---	1,836
Celery	830	1,273	5	2,108	785	1,329	---	2,114	786	1,578	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1,708
Corn	97	1,838	---	1,935	134	377	---	511	73	3,774	1	---	---	72	2,327	---	212	1,514	---	2,587
Cucumbers	36	983	---	1,019	55	826	---	881	21	1,454	1	---	---	141	815	---	956	944	---	1,022
Escarole and endive	---	295	1	296	7	363	---	370	---	325	---	---	---	135	298	2	435	25	---	987
Lettuce and romaine	3,265	2,237	---	5,502	2,972	1,852	---	4,824	2,782	3,104	59	---	---	2,395	2,443	10	4,848	2,743	362	392
Onions, dry	693	1,731	19	2,443	757	1,611	13	2,381	806	1,662	98	---	---	586	1,661	64	2,311	514	2,800	5,546
Onions, green 2/	---	264	---	266	51	195	---	246	27	416	29	---	---	5	333	64	402	297	2,740	2,740
Peas, green	65	30	---	95	35	21	---	56	115	56	---	---	---	62	29	---	91	61	---	318
Peppers	31	982	2	1,015	118	822	2	942	46	1,088	2	---	---	18	974	1	993	299	788	1,091
Spinach	21	136	---	207	12	349	---	361	19	207	---	---	---	25	241	---	266	15	432	447
Other cooking greens	12	451	---	463	28	435	---	463	14	444	---	---	---	---	399	---	406	---	534	534
Squash	---	628	---	628	11	797	---	808	1	518	9	---	---	---	---	5	488	15	1,197	1,217
Tomatoes	729	3,350	---	4,079	1,658	2,261	---	3,919	468	4,674	46	---	---	130	3,576	53	3,759	1,462	2,885	4,351
Turnips	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Rutabagas	18	154	143	315	66	310	114	490	---	141	26	---	---	9	178	133	320	9	296	514
Watermelons	73	1,465	---	1,538	---	76	---	76	603	6,031	---	---	---	68	1,308	---	1,376	---	121	121
Other vegetables (including mixed)	538	1,185	54	1,777	473	1,270	91	1,834	256	1,279	231	---	---	252	1,185	135	1,572	536	1,284	1,973
TOTAL ABOVE	10,981	23,645	234	34,860	9,411	19,484	222	29,117	10,559	35,141	515	---	---	7,571	25,087	477	33,135	8,847	23,767	33,037
Potatoes	4,625	6,329	---	10,954	5,568	5,510	---	11,078	4,619	6,872	100	---	---	4,031	6,118	1	10,150	5,164	6,308	12
Sweetpotatoes	33	1,153	---	1,186	71	1,420	10	1,501	16	618	---	---	---	77	994	17	1,088	64	1,317	12
GRAND TOTAL	15,639	31,127	234	47,000	15,050	26,444	232	41,696	15,194	42,631	615	---	---	11,679	32,199	495	44,373	14,075	31,392	447
																				45,914

1/ Except watermelons. 2/ Includes shallots, chives, cipollinas, leeks, scallions, and green onions.

Markets include: Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Dallas and Ft. Worth, Denver, Detroit, Kansas City (Missouri), Los Angeles, New Orleans, New York, Oakland (California), Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, St. Louis, San Francisco, Seattle, and Washington, D. C.

Table 8 .- Vegetables, fresh: Representative prices (l.c.l. sales) at New York and Chicago for stock of generally good quality and condition (U. S. No 1 when available) indicated periods, 1955, 1956 and 1957

Market and Commodity	State of Origin	Unit	Tuesday nearest mid-month					
			1955-56			1956-57		
			Nov. 15	Dec. 13	Jan. 17	Nov. 13	Dec. 11	Jan. 15
			Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
New York								
Beans, snap, green								
Valentine	Florida	Bu. hamper	3.01	3.48	7.55	5.04	5.43	5.31
Beets, bunched	Texas	$\frac{1}{2}$ W.G.A. crt.	---	3.75	3.18	---	3.22	2.90
Broccoli	California	14's small crt.	3.50	3.37	4.50	3.19	3.23	3.21
Cabbage, domestic								
round type	Florida	$1\frac{3}{4}$ bu. crt.	---	---	3.21	---	---	2.31
Cabbage, Danish type	New York	50 lb. sack	2.01	1.91	2.80	.75	1/1.13	1/ .96
Carrots, bunched	California	4 doz. pony crt.	2/7.71	2/7.25	2/7.65	4.18	5.50	4.38
Carrots, topped	California	48-1-lb. film bag crt.	6.23	7.00	6.11	4.75	4.65	4.36
Cauliflower	Texas	Double deck crt.	---	4.25	3.47	---	3.94	2.70
Celery, Golden Heart	Florida	3-10 doz. 16 in. crt.	---	---	---	4.17	3.50	3.88
Celery, Pascal	California	2-2 $\frac{1}{2}$ doz. 16 in. crt.	4.19	3.75	4.12	4.29	4.85	6.25
Corn, Yellow	Florida	5 doz. crt.	---	---	4.17	4.38	5.40	4.50
Cucumbers	Florida	Bu. bskt.	3.58	4.75	8.42	3.74	8.44	6.25
Eggplant	Florida	Bu. bskt.	2.22	2.00	3.50	5.34	4.95	2.78
Escarole	Florida	1-1/9 bu. crt.	1.62	1.88	3.42	2.35	2.88	2.19
Lettuce, Iceberg type	California	2 doz. crtn.	---	3.93	2.45	7.00	4.13	3.60
Onions, sweet Spanish:								
large size	Idaho	50 lb. sack	2.62	2.60	2.97	2.64	2.97	3.75
Onions, yellow,								
medium size	New York	50 lb. sack	---	1.40	1.92	.92	1.27	1.55
Peppers, green	Texas	Bu. bskt.	3.75	2.87	---	4.56	4.83	---
Spinach, Savay type	Texas	Bu. bskt.	---	2.07	2.10	---	2.50	2.10
Tomatoes, green,								
ripe, unwrapped	Florida	6x6 60-lb. crt.	---	4.10	10.33	---	9.80	8.44
Chicago								
Beans, snap, green								
Valentine	Florida	Bu. bskt.	3.60	3.75	7.25	4.25	5.85	4.25
Beets, bunched	Illinois	18 bch. 1 3/5-bu. box	---	---	---	1.60	3/2.90	---
Broccoli	California	14's $\frac{1}{2}$ crt.	3.35	3.50	4.00	2.75	2.85	2.75
Cabbage	Illinois	50-60 lb. open crt.	2.50	---	---	1.25	---	---
Carrots, topped,								
washed	California	48-1-lb. film bag crt.	5.50	6.30	5.50	4.50	4.15	4.10
Cauliflower	New York	Long Island crt. 12's	3.10	3.30	---	3.00	2.75	---
Celery, Pascal type	California	2-3 doz. 16 in. crt.	3.75	3.40	3.85	3.85	4.50	5.75
Cucumbers	Florida	Bu. bskt.	3.90	4.75	8.25	3.10	8.00	6.25
Eggplant	Florida	Bu. bskt.	2.50	2.35	3.25	---	4.75	2.90
Escarole	Florida	1 1/9 bu. bskt.	---	---	---	2.50	3.15	2.25
Lettuce, Iceberg								
type, dry pack	Arizona	2 doz. heads, crtn.	2.65	3.25	1.75	5.85	4.00	3.15
Onions, Spanish	Colorado	3" & lgr. 50 lb. sack	2.40	2.35	2.75	2.30	2.55	3.50
Onions, White Spanish:	Idaho -							
	Oregon	Med. 50 lb. sack	---	---	2.60	2.85	3.00	3.55
Peppers, green,								
California Wonder								
type	Texas	Bu. bskt.	4.00	2.85	---	4.60	5.25	---
Spinach, Flat type	Illinois	Bu. bskt.	---	---	---	1.35	1.35	---
Tomatoes, green, ripe:								
and turning, wrapped:	California	4/ 6x6 30-lb. lug box	5.75	5/6.25	---	5.75	5/4.00	5/ 9.50

1/ Long Island. 1 3/5 bu. bskt.

2/ W. G. A. crate.

3/ Texas  $\frac{1}{2}$  crate, 3 dozen bsks.

4/ 85 percent or more U. S. No. 1.

5/ Florida 60 lb. crate.

Table 9.- Vegetables, fresh: Average price received by farmers, United States, indicated periods, 1955 and 1956

Commodity	Unit	Average first half of month					
		1955			1956		
		November	December	October	November	December	
		Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	
Beans, snap	Bu.	2.55	2.40	2.65	3.30	3.90	
Broccoli	Crt.	3.95	3.95	3.45	3.05	3.70	
Cabbage	Ton	52.80	56.10	27.30	24.20	24.50	
Carrots	Bu.	2.35	2.85	1.45	1.80	1.75	
Cauliflower	Crt.	1.25	1.10	1.40	.95	1.20	
Celery	Crt.	2.30	1.95	1.70	1.90	2.70	
Corn, sweet	5 doz. ears	1.80	2.00	1.70	2.55	3.15	
Cucumbers	Bu.	2.40	2.65	2.80	2.40	5.00	
Lettuce	Crt.	2.70	3.55	3.70	6.20	5.10	
Onions	Sack	1.30	1.25	.85	.75	.90	
Peppers, green	Bu.	1.50	2.20	1.30	2.25	4.10	
Spinach	Bu.	1.05	1.25	1.10	.95	1.60	
Tomatoes	Bu.	4.55	2.75	2.95	5.90	5.00	

Table 8.- Vegetables, commercial for fresh market: Index numbers (unadjusted) of prices received by farmers, as of 15th of the month, United States by months, average 1935-39; average 1947-49, and 1950 to date

(1910-1914 = 100)													
Period	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Av.
1935-39	114	121	133	130	125	98	87	82	81	90	103	115	107
1947-49	288	305	310	308	277	215	207	196	193	204	241	246	249
Year													
1950	257	213	195	276	231	211	200	170	156	165	214	249	211
1951	338	346	288	333	276	215	203	197	190	211	290	343	269
1952	301	249	294	341	311	294	289	240	203	224	266	281	274
1953	263	262	249	254	251	289	246	201	192	198	224	235	239
1954	247	227	230	266	247	201	225	196	176	197	234	227	223
1955 1/	249	254	249	270	263	220	206	208	224	208	231	217	233
1956 2/	248	264	258	260	272	310	286	230	178	203	264	277	254

1/ Revised. In addition to the vegetables included in the series published prior to January 1954, the following have been added; broccoli, sweet corn, cucumbers, and watermelons.

2/ Preliminary.



Table 11.- Vegetables for commercial processing: Acreage, production, and season average price per ton received by farmers, average 1945-54, annual 1955 and 1956

	Harvested acreage			Production			Price per ton		
	Average	1955	1956	Average	1955	1956	Average	1955	1956
	1945-54			1945-54			1945-54		
	Acres	Acres	Acres	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
Asparagus	84,390	115,720	109,560	99.8	129.4	117.5	194.40	246.30	226.10
Beans, lima 1/	93,670	101,180	100,240	78.4	88.6	108.0	143.10	142.70	149.70
Beans, snap	125,100	134,490	131,960	250.2	305.7	328.7	114.10	111.10	119.60
Beets	16,500	18,320	19,920	143.1	144.3	191.2	20.60	20.60	19.50
Cabbage for kraut	17,520	13,250	15,470	199.1	160.7	243.5	13.80	18.20	12.10
Corn, sweet 2/	463,280	389,520	442,530	1,284.3	1,174.0	1,682.7	21.20	19.50	20.60
Cucumbers for pickles	131,020	125,400	118,930	262.0	311.7	329.8	61.40	54.20	55.00
Peas, green 1/	429,110	435,200	476,320	439.4	455.9	548.7	88.30	89.30	92.40
Spinach 3/	33,790	30,900	33,260	119.0	130.0	138.7	43.00	38.50	40.00
Tomatoes	398,390	330,800	346,780	3,089.4	3,278.0	4,570.7	27.60	24.90	25.60
Total	1,793,220	1,694,780	1,794,970	5,952.3	6,178.3	8,259.5	---	---	---

1/ Production and price on a "shelled basis.

2/ Corn in the husk.

3/ Averages are 1949-54.

Table 10.- Frozen vegetables: Cold-storage holdings, December 31, 1956, with comparisons

Commodity	Dec. average	1955	1956				
	1951-55	Dec. 31	Aug. 31	Sept. 30	Oct. 31	Nov. 30	Dec. 31 1/
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Asparagus	13,396	14,479	31,252	29,151	28,104	24,776	21,868
Beans, lima	92,251	98,265	57,559	117,390	129,335	120,300	109,238
Beans, snap	66,882	81,061	102,101	114,712	108,954	96,836	85,984
Broccoli	33,955	31,297	29,863	38,509	50,633	53,897	53,969
Brussels sprouts	22,558	22,701	5,359	8,036	15,346	22,707	28,371
Cauliflower	16,525	17,719	10,020	14,802	22,866	28,236	29,309
Corn, sweet	62,356	65,717	63,653	104,515	104,703	92,243	82,120
Mixed vegetables	2/	2/	8,961	8,324	9,800	18,065	20,930
Peas, green	134,915	124,647	305,615	294,591	266,158	242,041	218,450
Peas and carrots, mixed	2/	2/	6,478	5,644	8,458	15,252	15,503
Potatoes, french fried	2/	2/	21,364	19,006	24,249	33,448	40,372
Spinach	35,997	32,767	43,555	38,772	42,170	39,412	35,655
All other vegetables	123,411	135,396	65,285	75,235	104,119	118,226	119,555
Total	602,246	624,049	751,065	868,687	914,895	905,439	861,324

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Included in all other vegetables.

Table 13.- Canned vegetables: United States commercial pack 1955 and 1956 and canners' and wholesale distributors' stocks, indicated periods in 1955 and 1956, with comparisons

Commodity	Pack		Stocks					
	1955	1956	Canner 1/			Wholesale distributors 1/		
			Date	1955	1956	Date	1955	1956
	1,000 cases 24/2's	1,000 cases 24/2's		1,000 cases 24/2's	1,000 cases 24/2's		1,000 cases 24/2's	1,000 cases 24/2's
Major commodities								
Beans, snap	23,371	23,701	July 1	5,810	4,879	July 1	3,015	2,608
Corn, sweet	24,075	35,668	Dec. 1	18,925	25,306	Nov. 1	4,415	3,366
Peas, green	27,376	29,248	Dec. 1	14,779	16,023	Nov. 1	3,567	3,226
Tomatoes	24,727	29,883	July 1	2,666	2,456	July 1	3,039	3,007
Tomato juice 2/	26,911	43,552	July 1	6,141	2,168	July 1	2,829	2,485
Total	126,460	162,052		48,321	50,832		16,865	14,692
Minor commodities								
Asparagus	6,248	5,423	Oct. 1	n.a.	3,740	July 1	765	n.a.
Beans, lima	2,806	3,395	Aug. 1	865	911	July 1	564	508
Beets	7,493	n.a.	July 1	1,369	1,406	July 1	986	997
Carrots	1,902	n.a.	July 1	870	512	July 1	409	400
Pickles	3/21,196	3/22,426		---	---		---	---
Pimientos	3/1,000	n.a.		---	---		---	---
Pumpkin and squash	4,231	5,087	July 1	219	408	Dec. 1	957	2,267
Sauerkraut	3/8,678	3/13,149	Dec. 1	4/5,635	4/7,837	Nov. 1	1,011	737
Potatoes	2,707	n.a.		---	---		---	---
Sweetpotatoes	5,053	n.a.		---	---		---	---
Spinach	5,829	n.a.	Mar. 1	5/779	1,220	July 1	814	n.a.
Other greens	2,502	n.a.		---	---		---	---
Tomato products:								
Catsup, chili								
sauce	17,378	24,387	July 1	1,977	2,264	July 1	1,205	1,341
Paste	6/8,571	n.a.	July 1	5/511	5/754		---	---
Pulp and puree	4,261	n.a.	July 1	7/81	7/162	July 1	796	599
Sauce	10,061	n.a.	July 1	5/428	5/1,448	July 1	698	n.a.
Vegetables, mixed	3,049	n.a.		---	---		---	---
Total, comparable minor	60,537	73,867		12,734	16,922		5,928	6,849
Grand total	186,997	235,919		61,055	67,754		22,793	21,541

1/ Converted from actual cases to standard cases of 24 No. 2 cans by S&amp;HR Branch of AMS.

2/ Includes combination vegetable juices containing at least 70 percent tomato juice.

3/ Crop for processing converted to a canned basis by applying an overall conversion factor (pickles 68, sauerkraut 54, and pimientos 29 cases equivalent to 1 ton fresh).

4/ Reported in barrels; converted to 24 No. 2 by using 14 cases to the barrel.

5/ Estimated basis, California stock.

6/ Estimated basis, California pack.

7/ California only.

N. A. Not Available.

Canners' stock and pack data from National Canners Association, unless otherwise noted.

Wholesale distributors' stocks from United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

Table 14.- Potatoes: Acreage, yield per acre, and production, average 1949-54, annual 1955 and 1956

Seasonal Group	Acreage			Yield per acre			Production		
	Harvested			Average 1949-54	1955	1956	Average 1949-54	1955	1956
	Average	1955	1956						
	1949-54	1955	1956						
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	1,000 cwt.	1,000 cwt.	1,000 cwt.
Winter	21.4	30.2	33.8	154.1	171.4	155.6	3,284	5,175	6,022
Spring									
Early	23.3	25.8	26.1	128.7	147.3	154.1	2,994	3,800	3,923
Late	205.7	177.9	165.9	130.9	151.5	146.7	26,838	26,948	24,069
Summer									
Early	127.2	110.6	100.1	76.8	100.0	94.9	9,800	11,058	9,389
Late	222.7	190.2	187.9	150.4	166.6	181.7	33,269	31,682	33,48
Fall									
8 Eastern	309.3	292.8	279.4	197.2	210.4	237.7	61,110	61,595	65,422
9 Central	347.1	299.3	292.3	115.7	104.6	139.8	40,068	31,320	40,805
9 Western	267.9	286.8	305.4	182.9	193.4	192.3	48,998	55,468	59,056
Total	924.3	878.9	877.1	162.6	168.8	189.2	150,175	148,383	165,283
United States	1,524.7	1,413.6	1,390.9	148.7	160.6	174.9	226,360	227,046	243,238

1/ Preliminary.

Table 15.- Sweetpotatoes: Acreage, yield per acre and production average 1949-54, annual 1955 and 1956

	Acreage			Yield per acre			Production		
	Harvested			Average 1949-54	1955	1956	Average 1949-54	1955	1956
	Average	1955	1956						
	1949-54	1955	1956						
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	1,000 cwt.	1,000 cwt.	1,000 cwt.
Central									
Atlantic 1/	37.7	40.7	36.9	83	85	88	3,142	3,469	3,238
Lower									
Atlantic 2/	115.9	84.0	71.5	50	56	7	5,846	4,694	4,108
South									
Central 3/	206.4	200.3	161.2	48	58	53	9,919	11,688	8,540
North									
Central 4/	3.7	3.4	3.1	54	51	2	200	172	160
California	11.2	13.0	12.0	67	71	73	748	923	876
United States	378.4	341.4	284.7	52.8	61.4	59.4	20,051	20,946	16,922

1/ New Jersey, Maryland, and Virginia.

2/ North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida.

3/ Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas.

4/ Missouri and Kansas.



Table 16.- Potatoes: Price f.o.b. shipping points and wholesale price at New York and Chicago, indicated periods 1955, 1956 and 1957

[illegible]

1/ Various varieties.

2/ Mostly Katahdin.

3/ 20-30%, 10 ounces and larger.

4/ 2-1/8 minimum.

5/ 2 inch minimum.

6/  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inch minimum.

F.o.b. and terminal market prices submitted by Market News reports of AMS.

Table 17.- Sweetpotatoes: Price f.o.b. shipping points and wholesale (l.c.l. sales) at New York and Chicago, indicated periods, 1955, 1956 and 1957

Item	State	Unit	Week ended					
			1955-56			1956-57		
			Nov. 12	Dec. 17	Jan. 14	Nov. 10	Dec. 8	Jan. 12
			Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
F.o.b. shipping points								
Porto Rican	S. W. Louisiana	U. S. No.1: 50 lb. crt.	---	2.94	2.68	---	3.77	3.75
Porto Rican	S. W. Louisiana	U. S. No.2: 50 lb. crt.	---	1.43	1.38	---	1.79	1.88
Tuesday nearest mid-month								
			1955-56			1956-57		
			Nov. 15	Dec. 13	Jan. 17	Nov. 13	Dec. 11	Jan. 15
			Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
Terminal markets								
New York								
Porto Rican	North Carolina	Bu. bskt.	3.75	3.85	3.95	3.46	4.20	4.31
Chicago								
Porto Rican, Cured	Louisiana	50 lb. crt.	---	4.40	3.20	---	3.60	4.35

F.o.b. prices are simple averages of the range of daily prices, compiled from Market News Service reports. The market prices are representative prices for Tuesday of each week and are submitted by the Market News Service representative at each market.

Table 18.- United States average prices received by farmers for important field crops, indicated periods, 1955 and 1956

Commodity	Unit	Average		1955	1956		
		Aug. 1909- July 1914	Jan. 1947- Dec. 1949	Dec. 15	Oct. 15	Nov. 15	Dec. 19
		Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
Potatoes	Per cwt.	1.14	2.47	1.33	1.34	1.53	1.52
Sweetpotatoes	Per cwt.	1.60	4.27	3.62	3.52	3.70	4.38
Beans, dry edible	Per cwt.	3.37	9.92	6.80	6.67	6.76	6.81
Peas, dry field	Per cwt.	---	4.60	6.03	4.67	4.70	4.44

Table 19. - Beans, dry, edible: Acreage, yield per acre, and production, average 1945-54, annual 1955 and 1956 <sup>1/</sup>

States and classes	Harvested acreage			Yield per acre			Production <sup>2/</sup>		
	Average:	1955	1956	Average:	1955	1956	Average:	1955	1956
	1945-54:	1945-54:	1945-54:	1945-54:	1945-54:	1945-54:	1945-54:	1945-54:	1945-54:
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	acres	acres	acres	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	bags	bags	bags
Maine, New York, and Michigan	576	610	623	892	906	1,104	5,133	5,525	6,879
Nebraska, Montana: Idaho, Wyoming, and Washington	307	311	275	1,492	1,647	1,704	4,576	5,122	4,686
Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah	376	258	233	624	734	656	2,247	1,893	1,528
California:									
Large lima	75	72	60	1,508	1,496	1,707	1,122	1,077	1,024
Baby lima	63	24	32	1,493	1,325	1,747	913	318	559
Other	182	227	186	1,149	1,196	1,311	2,113	2,714	2,438
Total California	320	323	278	1,296	1,272	1,446	4,148	4,109	4,021
United States	1,579	1,502	1,409	1,028	1,108	1,215	16,103	16,649	17,114

<sup>1/</sup> Includes beans grown.<sup>2/</sup> Bags of 100 pounds.

Table 20 - Beans, dry, edible: Production in selected areas, by major types, United States, crop years 1955 and 1956

Type	Michigan		Idaho and others <sup>1/</sup>		Colorado and others <sup>2/</sup>		New York		California:		Total	
	1955:	1956:	1955:	1956:	1955:	1956:	1955:	1956:	1955:	1956:	1955:	1956:
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	bags 3/	bags 3/	bags 3/	bags 3/	bags 3/	bags 3/	bags 3/	bags 3/	bags 3/	bags 3/	bags 3/	bags 3/
Pea (Navy)	4,343	5,028	52	99	---	---	80	104	---	---	4,475	5,231
Great												
Northern	---	---	1,948	1,800	---	---	---	---	---	---	1,948	1,800
Pinto	38	20	1,648	1,706	1,890	1,516	---	---	10	15	3,586	3,257
Red Kidney	62	138	2	23	1	---	794	1,213	166	284	1,025	1,658
Standard												
lima	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1,077	1,024	1,077	1,024
Baby lima	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	318	559	318	559
Other												
varieties	93	203	1,472	1,058	37	50	80	135	2,538	2,139	4,220	3,585
Total	4,536	5,389	5,122	4,686	1,928	1,566	954	1,452	4,109	4,021	16,649	17,114

<sup>1/</sup> Includes Montana, Wyoming, Nebraska, and Washington. <sup>2/</sup> Includes Maine, New Mexico, Minnesota, Arizona, and Utah. <sup>3/</sup> Bags of 100 pounds, cleaned basis.



Table 21.- Peas, dry, field: Acreage, yield per acre, and production, average 1945-54, annual 1955 and 1956 1/

State	Harvested acreage			Yield per acre			Production 2/		
	Average	1955	1956	Average	1955	1956	Average	1955	1956
	1945-54	1945-54	1945-54	1945-54	1945-54	1945-54	1945-54	1945-54	1945-54
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags
Minnesota	4	4	6	875	1,020	1,300	37	41	78
North Dakota	7	2	4	925	900	1,250	75	18	50
Montana	11	6	5	1,072	1,020	1,240	112	61	62
Idaho	104	103	144	1,190	1,000	1,400	1,225	1,034	2,016
Wyoming	4	5	5	1,262	1,260	1,280	54	63	64
Colorado	12	8	9	843	820	860	105	66	67
Washington	170	143	154	1,169	800	1,360	1,986	1,149	2,094
Oregon	17	4	8	875	500	1,500	147	20	120
California	13	6	7	1,020	1,220	1,300	124	73	91
United States	344	281	342	1,137	899	1,360	3,868	2,525	4,652

1/ In commercial producing States. Includes peas grown for seed and cannery peas harvested dry.

2/ Bags of 100 pounds.

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